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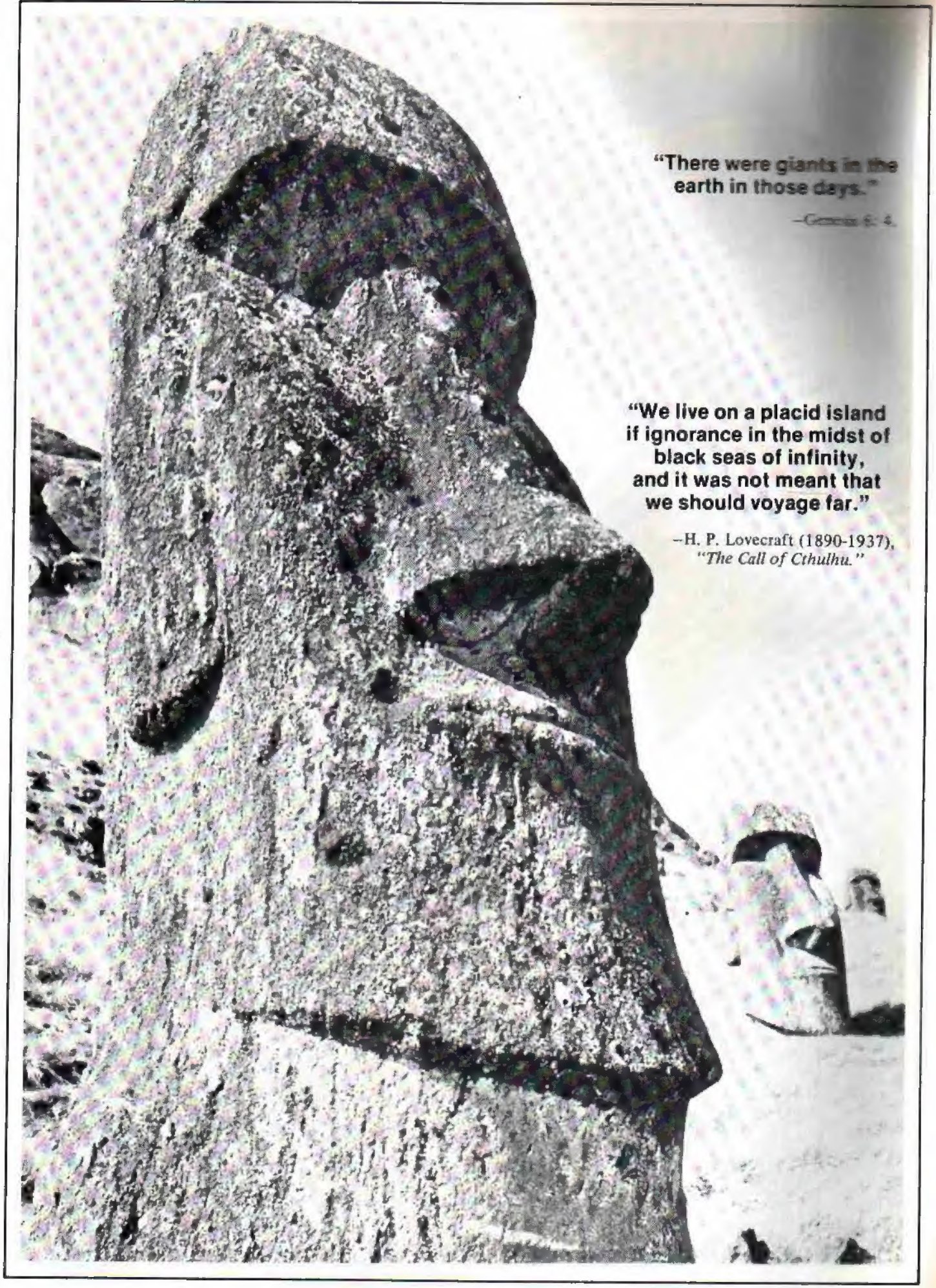
MARVEL PREVIEW™
PRESENTS
MAN-GODS™
FROM BEYOND THE STARS
-FIRST ISSUE-
ALL NEW
ILLUSTRATED
STORIES
IMPOSSIBLE-OR TRUE?
PHOTOS, FANTASY,
AND FACTS
ABOUT THE STARMEN
WHO WALKED THE EARTH
BEFORE TIME BEGAN
NEAL ADAMS
(MR. RETAILER - FOR RETAIL DISPLAY ANNOUNCEMENT - SEE PAGE 80)



**"There were giants in the earth in those days."**

–Genesis 6: 4.

**"We live on a placid island if ignorance in the midst of black seas of infinity, and it was not meant that we should voyage far."**

–H. P. Lovecraft (1890-1937), *"The Call of Cthulhu."*

STAN LEE PRESENTS:

# MAN-GODS FROM BEYOND THE STARS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With special thanks to SUN INTERNATIONAL PRODUCTIONS, INC., for their most kind cooperation.

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MARVEL PREVIEW is published by MAGAZINE MANAGEMENT CO., INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 575 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Published Quarterly.


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Vol. 1, No. 1 1975 issue. Price $1.00 per copy in the U.S. and Canada. All business inquiries should be addressed to Tom Montemarano, Director of Circulation, 9th floor.


No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely concidental.


Printed in the United States of America.

**In the past few years, much evidence has been unearthed which suggests that our planet was visited, in eons past, by *aliens from outer space*—men or near-men who were looked upon as *gods* by earth's primitive inhabitants.**

**No man yet knows the truth or falseness of this theory. But who among us can say, with absolute certainty, that it did *not* happen?**

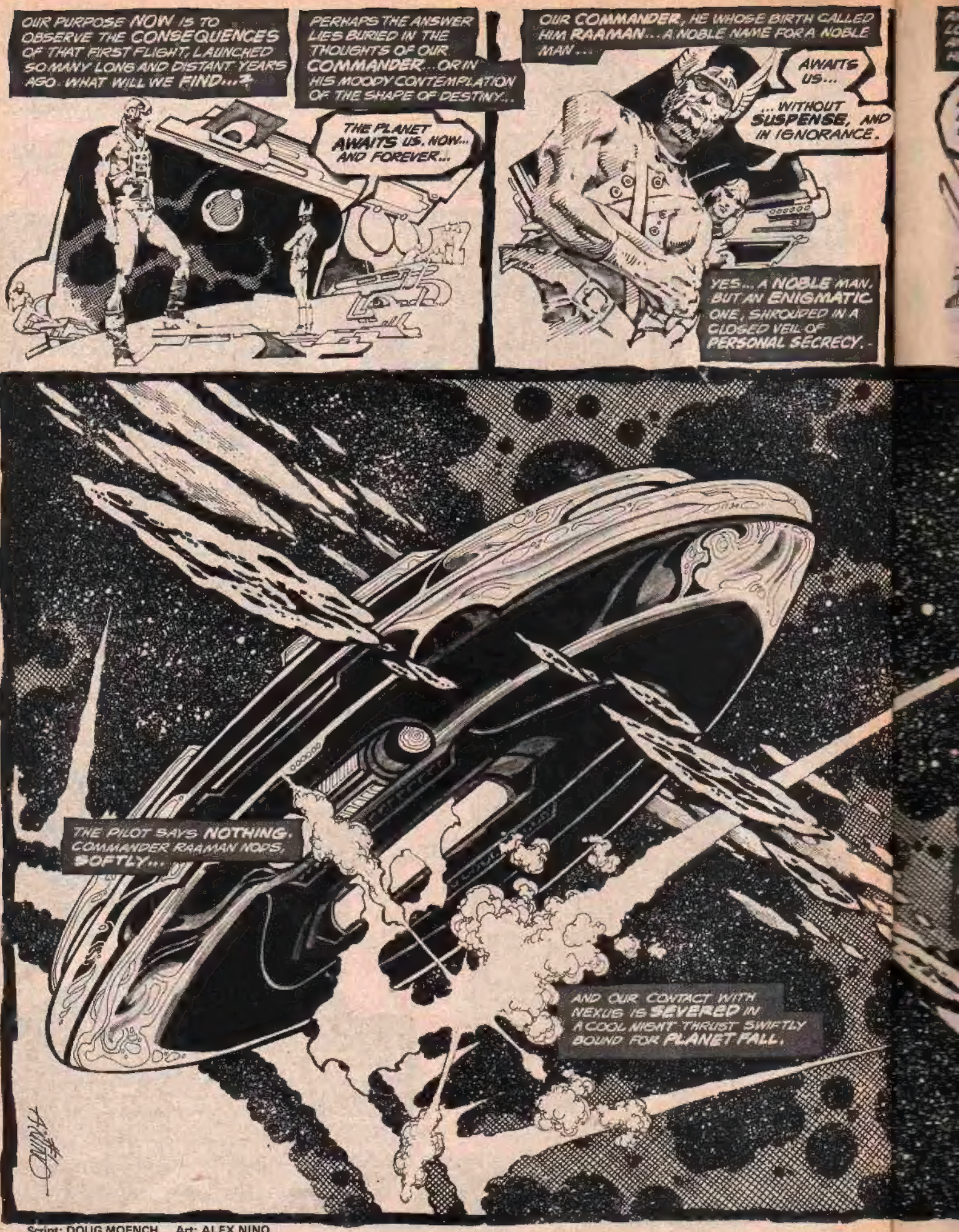
**The precise scenario of these visitations is lost in time and space, and will doubtless never be fully known**

**Still, this is *one* way it might have happened....**

DICTATION FROM THE MIND OF RECORDER **HERALX**: I HAVE ALWAYS **ABHORRED** THE COMPUTER. ITS PERPETUAL GREED FOR FACTS AND FIGURES, FOR UNERRING INFORMATION AND DIGITAL DATA IS **UNSURPASSED** IN THE ANNALS OF DOGMATIC **AVARICE**. INDEED, THE INCESSANT LUST CAN **NEVER** BE SATISFIED; FATED AS IT IS TO **RELINQUISH** ALL INPUT ALMOST BEFORE **DIGESTION**, LIMITED TO NO MORE THAN A BRIEF TANTALIZING **TASTE** OF ITS SUSTENANCE, AND THEN FORCED TO **TRANSMIT** IT ACROSS 365,000 LIGHT YEARS TO **HOMEWORLD**. A MERE **FUNNEL** FOR A FAR **GREATER** HUNGER, DESTINED ITSELF TO FOREVER **WANT**. IN **GLUTTONY**.

BUT LATELY I HAVE COME TO **COMMISERATE** WITH THAT VAST AND EMOTIONLESS INTELLECT OF CIRCUITRY AND SYNAPSE, FOR I FIND THAT MY **OWN** MIND HAS GROWN INSATIABLE. OH, NOT FOR COLD EQUATIONS AND STIFLING STATISTICS, BUT FOR IMPRESSIONS AND EXPRESSIONS -- FOR THE SUMMED **EXPERIENCE** OF THE MOST MOMENTOUS VOYAGE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR **RACE**.

MY AFFINITY WITH THE COMPUTER'S **FUNCTION**, HOWEVER, CANNOT EXCUSE IT'S **EXISTENCE**. IT IS AN UGLY MONUMENT TO THOSE WHO PLACE STATISTICS IN A PRIORITY TRANSCENDING **HUMANITY** -- FOR MY IMPRESSIONS ARE **NOT** SUBJECT TO IMMEDIATE TRANSMISSION TO **UXOR**; THE THOUGHTS OF A **POET** ARE THE MAUNDERINGS OF A **FOOL**. THEY CAN **WAIT**, AND I CAN FILL THEM WITH **AWE** THAT I WAS EVEN **CHOSEN** FOR THIS MISSION. A **MIRACLE**, DRESSED IN THE GREASY SILKS OF A PATRONIZING **SNEER**...
NEVERTHELESS, THE BEAUTY REMAINS **CLOSED** TO THE COMPUTER... A SPECIAL **CONDUIT** FOR **MY MIND** ALONE, MY **APPRECIATION** ALONE. I SHALL NOT BETRAY IT.
WE HAVE SLID, SILENTLY, THROUGH THE COLD IMMENSITY OF THE **VOID**, LIKE A STRAY **THOUGHT** TRAVELING THROUGH A MIND IN **SLUMBER**, TO REACH THIS PLANET OF A SUN **TWIN** TO OUR **OWN**. OUR WOMB-LIKE VESSEL IS THE **STARCRAFT NEXUS**, THE **SECOND** SUCH CRAFT FROM UXOR TO APPROACH THIS PLANET. THE FIRST NEVER **RETURNED**... NOR WAS IT **INTENDED** TO.


OUR PURPOSE NOW IS TO OBSERVE THE CONSEQUENCES OF THAT FIRST FLIGHT, LAUNCHED SO MANY LONG AND DISTANT YEARS AGO. WHAT WILL WE FIND...?
PERHAPS THE ANSWER LIES BURIED IN THE THOUGHTS OF OUR COMMANDER... OR IN HIS MOODY CONTEMPLATION OF THE SHAPE OF DESTINY...
THE PLANET AWAITS US. NOW... AND FOREVER...
OUR COMMANDER, HE WHOSE BIRTH CALLED HIM RAAMAN... A NOBLE NAME FOR A NOBLE MAN...
AWAITS US...
...WITHOUT SUSPENSE, AND IN IGNORANCE.
YES... A NOBLE MAN, BUT AN ENIGMATIC ONE, SHROUDED IN A CLOSED VEIL OF PERSONAL SECRECY.
THE PILOT SAYS NOTHING. COMMANDER RAAMAN NODS, SOFTLY...
AND OUR CONTACT WITH NEXUS IS SEVERED IN A COOL NIGHT THRUST SWIFTLY BOUND FOR PLANET FALL.

Script: DOUG MOENCH Art: ALEX NINO

AND WHAT OF COMMANDER'S-AIDE **NORG**? HOW LONG CAN HE **REPRESS** HIS JEALOUSY OF **POWER** AND **AUTHORITY**... HIS **RESENTMENT** OF THE MAN HE WISHES TO **REPLACE**...?

**NORG**--INSTRUCT THE LANDING CONTINGENT TO BOARD THE AUXILIARY SHUTTLECRAFT **IMMEDIATELY.**

**YES**... COMMANDER **RAAMAN.**

THUS, IN OUR **SEVENTH ORBIT** OF THIS OXYGEN-SHEATHED PLANE, A SMALL PROCESSION--ALMOST **SOLEMN** IN DEMEANOR--FILES ABOARD THE BLISTER-POD LODGED IN THE SKIN OF **NEXUS.**

A BIOLOGIST, GEOLOGIST, BOTANIST, CHEMIST, PILOT... RAAMAN, NORG, MYSELF... AND A SMALL COMPLEMENT OF **MEDICAL** OFFICERS... ALL **SILENT**, ALL WITH SEPARATE **EXPECTATION**...

# MAN-GODS FROM BEYOND THE STARS

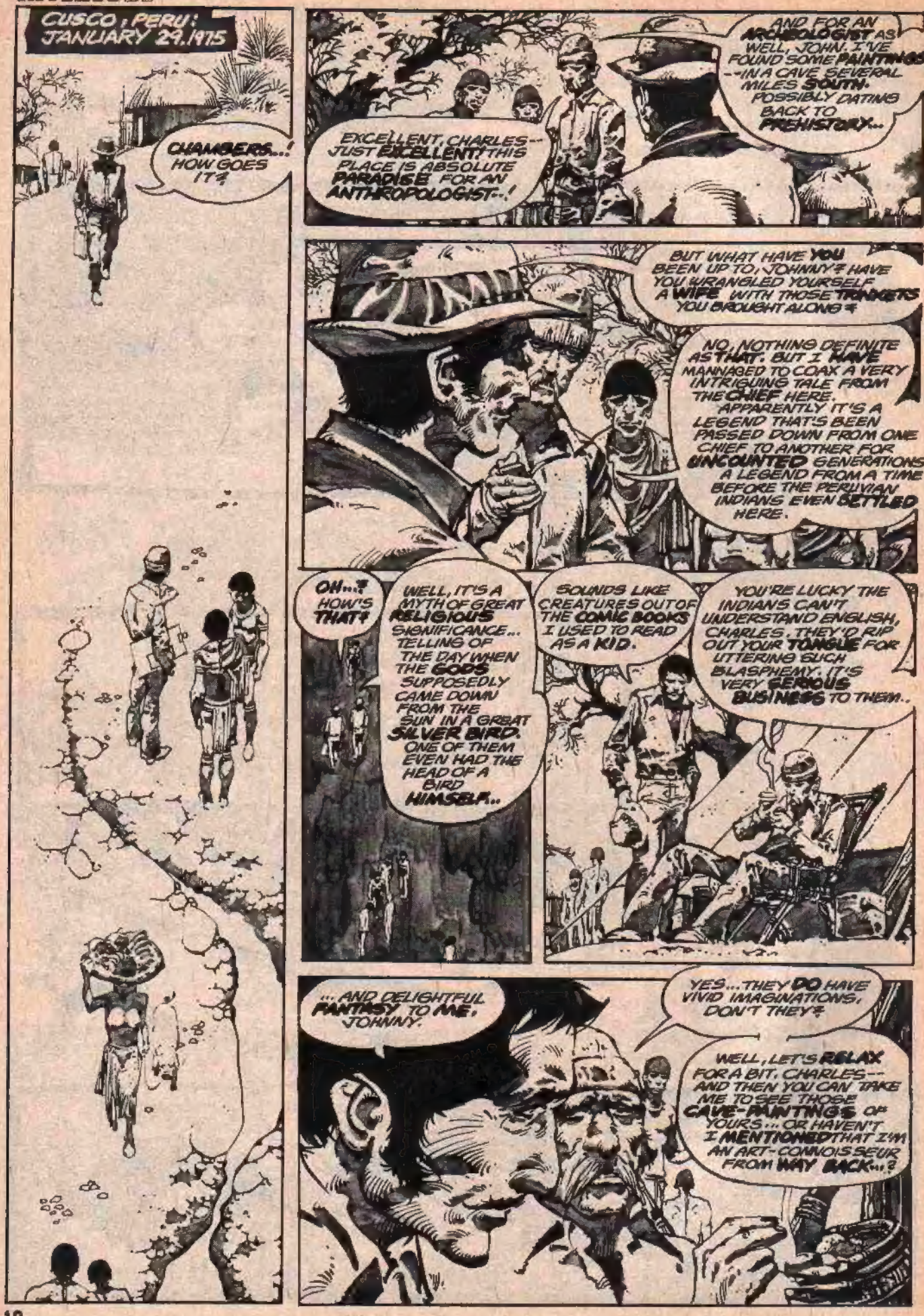
THE STARS, AGAIN, ARE **GLORIOUS**--THE PLANET **MORE SO**--AND **POEMS** HARSH AND DISSONANT, BY **COMPARISON**...

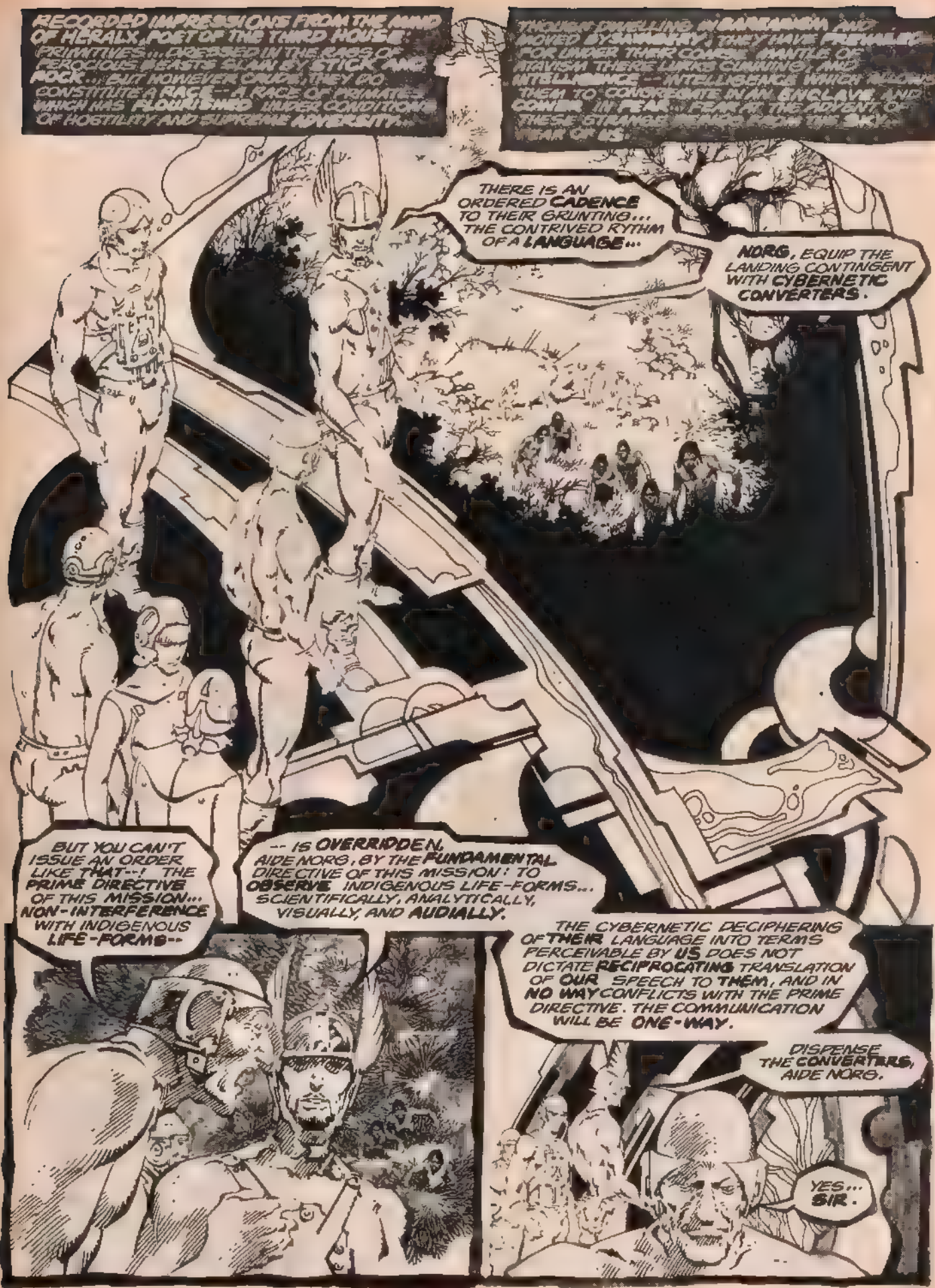
conceived and co-plotted by ROY THOMAS

CLOSER: WE ARE BROUGHT CLOSER NOW, CARRIED DOWN BY THE SILENT HUM OF OUR NON-DEPLETIVE REPOSITORY; VELOCITY PEAKING AT--
NO. I WILL NOT TRESPASS THE COMPUTER'S COLD DOMAIN OF FACTS AND FIGURES. I WILL CONCERN MYSELF ONLY WITH WONDERS... WITH THE EXHILARATED HUMAN RESPONSE TO THIS WHITE NEEDLE RIDING MOONBEAMS THROUGH THE DARK EYE OF SPACE... TOWARD I KNOW NOT WHAT.
YIIII!!
HIIII!!
YIIII!!!
WHAT DO YOU SEE, RECORDER HERALX, THROUGH YOUR EYES OF THE POET...?
I SEE A WORLD SEEDED WITH TRAGEDY, NOW BLOSSOMING IN HOPE. I SEE WHAT NO EYES CAN EVER SEE, FOR I AM A POET--AND BLIND TO EVERYTHING BUT THAT WHICH I WISH TO SEE.
HOPE--? THERE'S NO HOPE DOWN THERE. IT WAS STOCKED WITH CORRUPTION, AND IT WILL OFFER NOTHING BUT CHAOS. SO SAYS NORG!

THE COMMANDER COMMENTS ON NORG'S PRONOUNCEMENT WITH SILENCE. A CONFIDENT MAN, RAAMAN FEELS NO NEED TO REMIND HIS SUBORDINATES OF THE POWER HE EMBODIES. THE EFFECT IS ONE WHICH ANGERS NORG BEYOND WORDS...
A SMOOTH DESCENT INTO ATMOSPHERE. FOR ALTHOUGH WE HAVE PIERCED THE SEAL OF GRAVITY, THE SHUTTLECRAFT PROPULSION HAS COMPENSATED WITH PRECISE SYNCHRONIZATION.
AND YOU, COMMANDER RAAMAN... WHAT DO YOU SEE?
A CHANCE, HERALX...
MERELY A CHANCE.
SOON NOW... SOON WE SHALL BLOT THE SUN, AND STAIN THE PLANET WITH OUR SHADOW...
HIIII!! YIIII!! YIIIEEEE!!
THEY HAVE COME DOWN FROM THE SUN!
THEY ARE THE GODS...!

INTERLUDE:


CUSCO, PERU: JANUARY 29, 1975
CHAMBERS...! HOW GOES IT?
EXCELLENT, CHARLES--JUST EXCELLENT! THIS PLACE IS ABSOLUTE PARADISE FOR AN ANTHROPOLOGIST--!
AND FOR AN ARCHEOLOGIST AS WELL, JOHN. I'VE FOUND SOME PAINTINGS --IN A CAVE SEVERAL MILES SOUTH. POSSIBLY DATING BACK TO PREHISTORY...
BUT WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO, JOHNNY? HAVE YOU WRANGLED YOURSELF A WIFE WITH THOSE TRINKETS YOU BROUGHT ALONG?
NO, NOTHING DEFINITE AS THAT. BUT I HAVE MANAGED TO COAX A VERY INTRIGUING TALE FROM THE CHIEF HERE. APPARENTLY IT'S A LEGEND THAT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM ONE CHIEF TO ANOTHER FOR UNCOUNTED GENERATIONS. A LEGEND FROM A TIME BEFORE THE PERUVIAN INDIANS EVEN SETTLED HERE.
OH...? HOW'S THAT?
WELL, IT'S A MYTH OF GREAT RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE... TELLING OF THE DAY WHEN THE GODS SUPPOSEDLY CAME DOWN FROM THE SUN IN A GREAT SILVER BIRD. ONE OF THEM EVEN HAD THE HEAD OF A BIRD HIMSELF..
SOUNDS LIKE CREATURES OUT OF THE COMIC BOOKS I USED TO READ AS A KID.
YOU'RE LUCKY THE INDIANS CAN'T UNDERSTAND ENGLISH, CHARLES. THEY'D RIP OUT YOUR TONGUE FOR UTTERING SUCH BLASPHEMY. IT'S VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS TO THEM..
...AND DELIGHTFUL FANTASY TO ME, JOHNNY.
YES... THEY DO HAVE VIVID IMAGINATIONS, DON'T THEY?
WELL, LET'S RELAX FOR A BIT, CHARLES--AND THEN YOU CAN TAKE ME TO SEE THOSE CAVE-PAINTINGS OF YOURS... OR HAVEN'T I MENTIONED THAT I'M AN ART-CONNOISSEUR FROM WAY BACK...?

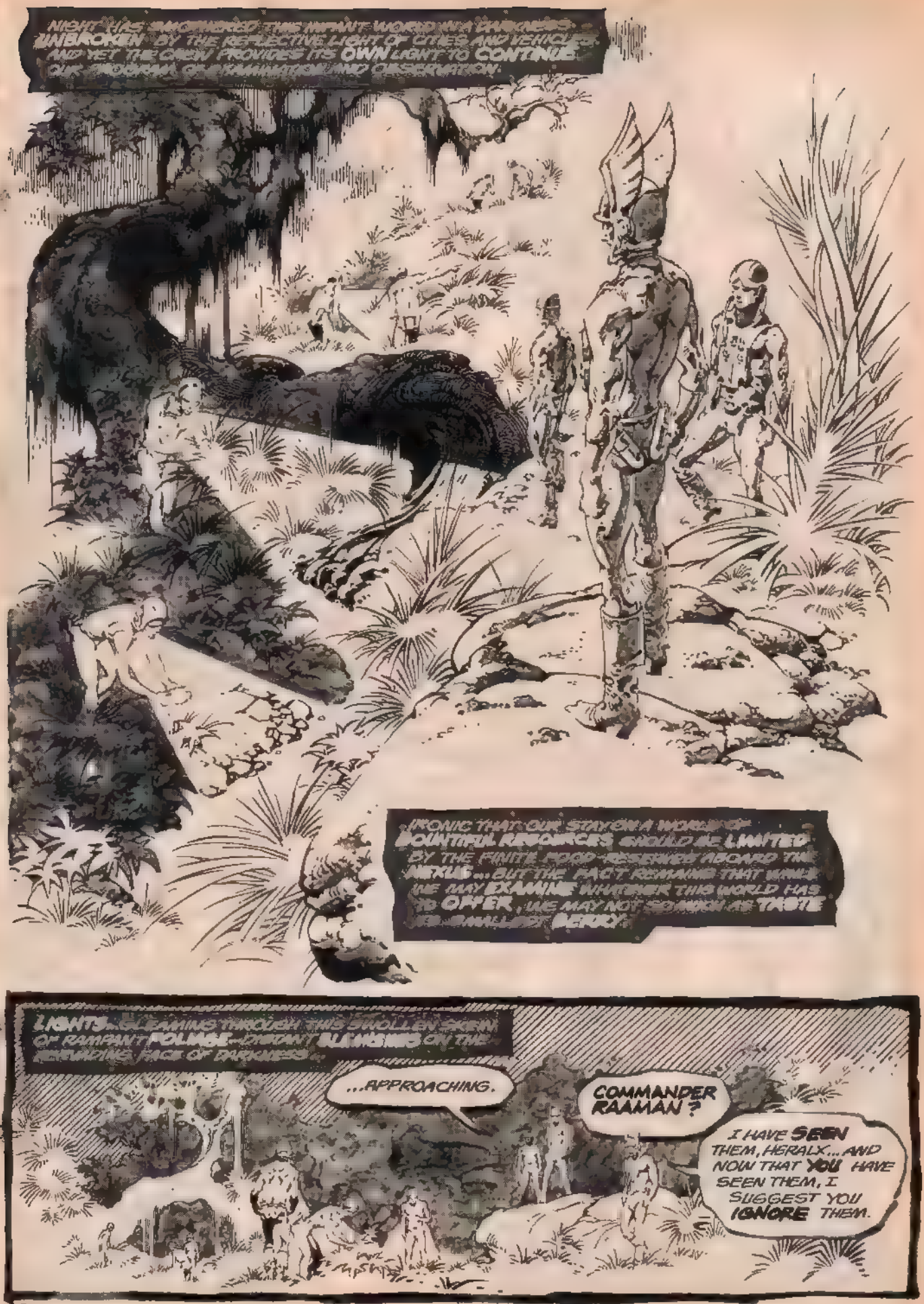

RECORDED IMPRESSIONS FROM THE MIND OF HERALX, POET OF THE THIRD HOUSE:
PRIMITIVES... DRESSED IN THE RAGS OF FEROCIOUS BEASTS SLAIN BY STICK AND ROCK... BUT HOWEVER CRUDE, THEY DO CONSTITUTE A RACE -- A RACE OF PRIMATES WHICH HAS FLOURISHED UNDER CONDITIONS OF HOSTILITY AND SUPREME ADVERSITY...
THEIR DWELLING PLACE IS BARBARISM AND MOVED BY SAVAGERY, THEY HAVE PREPARED FOR UNDER THEIR COARSE MANTLE OF ATAVISM THERE LURKS CUNNING, AND INTELLIGENCE -- INTELLIGENCE WHICH ALLOWS THEM TO CONGREGATE IN AN ENCLAVE AND COWER IN FEAR -- FEAR OF THE ADVENT OF THESE STRANGERS FROM THE SKY... FEAR OF US.
THERE IS AN ORDERED CADENCE TO THEIR GRUNTING... THE CONTRIVED RYTHM OF A LANGUAGE...
NORG, EQUIP THE LANDING CONTINGENT WITH CYBERNETIC CONVERTERS.
BUT YOU CAN'T ISSUE AN ORDER LIKE THAT--! THE PRIME DIRECTIVE OF THIS MISSION... NON-INTERFERENCE WITH INDIGENOUS LIFE-FORMS--
-- IS OVERRIDDEN, AIDE NORG, BY THE FUNDAMENTAL DIRECTIVE OF THIS MISSION: TO OBSERVE INDIGENOUS LIFE-FORMS... SCIENTIFICALLY, ANALYTICALLY, VISUALLY, AND AUDIALLY.
THE CYBERNETIC DECIPHERING OF THEIR LANGUAGE INTO TERMS PERCEIVABLE BY US DOES NOT DICTATE RECIPROCATING TRANSLATION OF OUR SPEECH TO THEM, AND IN NO WAY CONFLICTS WITH THE PRIME DIRECTIVE. THE COMMUNICATION WILL BE ONE-WAY.
DISPENSE THE CONVERTERS, AIDE NORG.
YES... SIR.

NORS IS AN INSECT TRAPPED IN THE AMBER OF RAMAN'S WILL. HIS EYES, HIS MOUTH AND STRUGGLE IN PROTEST, BUT ULTIMATELY HE IS BOUND TO A BARBARIC AUTHORITY.
... AND WITH MUCH BOOMALINE AND MUTTERING, HE FULFILLS HIS COMMAND.
THE CONVERTER TRANSLATES THE RASPING GRUNTS OF THE PRIMITIVES INTO A COMPREHENSIBLE PATTERN OF COHERENT LANGUAGE. STILL, EVEN WITHOUT BENEFIT OF THE CONVERTER, THERE COULD BE NO MISINTERPRETATION OF THEIR REVERENTIAL ATTITUDE.
KNEEL TO THEM! THEY HAVE COME DOWN FROM THE SUN IN A BRIGHT STICK OF FLAME!
THEY ARE THE GODS! THEY ARE OUR FATHERS FROM THE SKIES!
WE MUST KNEEL TO THEM IN OBEISANCE--
-- AND WE MUST OFFER THEM THE FRUIT OF OUR HUNT, AS A SACRIFICE TO THEIR MERCY--!
NO--!
RISE FROM YOUR KNEES, BROTHER HUNTERS -- RISE AND STRIKE DOWN THE LIES OF OUR FEARFUL CHIEFTAIN!!
THE STRANGERS ARE NOT THE GODS--!

THEY ARE DEVILS--DEVILS COME TO STEAL OUR FOOD!! THEY ARE TOO WEAK TO SLAY THEIR OWN GAME!!
BUT WE ARE STRONG HUNTERS--WE HAVE SLAIN THE GIANT BEAST...
AND WE MUST NOW SLAY THESE DEVILS WHO WISH TO STEAL IT FROM US!!
WE MUST FOREVER DRIVE THEM FROM OUR LAND!!
NEITHER GOOD NOR EVILS...WE ARE MERELY MEN -- MEN WHO HAVE INCITED FELLOW MEN TO THE KEEN EDGE OF VIOLENCE...TO PARTICIPATE IN VIOLENCE WOULD CONSTITUTE DISASTER, AND EVEN MORE RESISTANCE WOULD FORM THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THE FAILURE OF OUR MISSION...
PREPARE THE DEFENSE SCREENS--!
NO. NOT YET.
AND NORB... YOU ARE REMINDED THAT I WILL ISSUE ALL FUTURE COMMANDS.
I AM CONVINCED THAT THERE IS NO END TO COMMANDER RAMMAN'S SERENE PATIENCE... OR TO HIS WISDOM, FOR HE HAS SEEN THAT TO WHICH THE REST OF US HAVE REMAINED BLIND...
SILENCE, SHAMAN!!
IT IS BY MY POWER THAT YOU HAVE BECOME SHAMAN--AND IT IS BY MY POWER THAT YOU MAY BE CUT OUT FROM THE TRIBE!!
HE HAS BEEN A REFLECTION OF HIMSELF IN THE CREATION...HE HAS SEEN A MAN WIELDING INVIOLABLE AUTHORITY...
NOW YOU WILL KNEEL, SHAMAN--
--OR YOU WILL LEAVE US LIKE A BEATEN DOG!
AND THEREFORE HE HAS SEEN NO NEED FOR RESISTANCE.

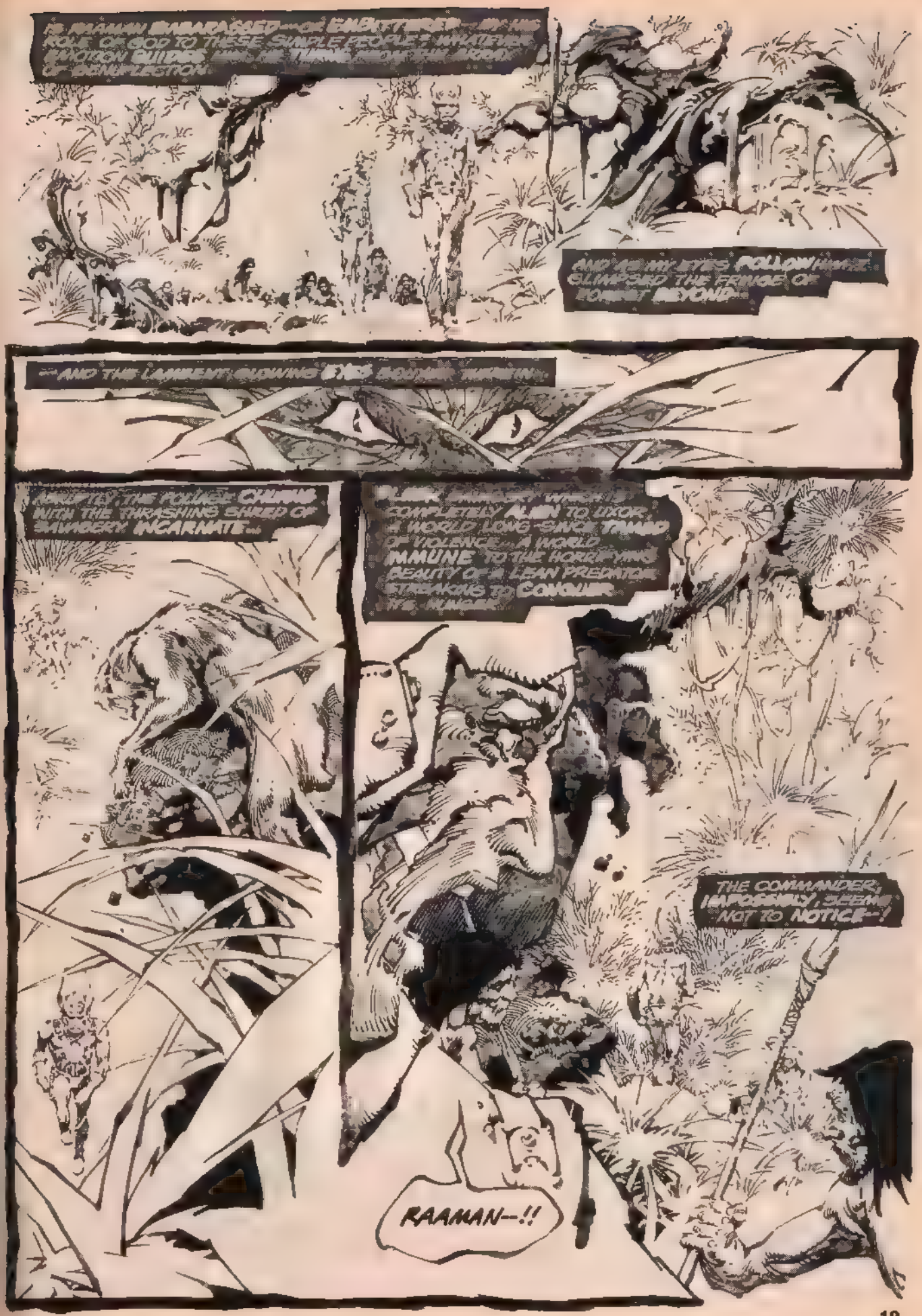
SO THE CHIEF HAS WON, AND GRANTED US OUR APOTHEOSIS. WE'RE NOW GODS TO THESE PEOPLE..
YES... GODS...
GODS OF AN ENTIRE PLANET..!
TO INFORM THEM OTHERWISE WOULD VIOLATE THE PRIME DIRECTIVE. THUS, WE WILL ALLOW THEM TO THINK OF US AS THEY WILL -- AND CONDUCT OUR OBSERVATIONS INDEPENDENT OF THEIRS.
HERALX, RETRIEVE THE HARNESSES FROM THE SHUTTLE.
YES, SIR.
IT IS RAMMARR'S INTENTION TO MOVE TO A REGION MORE FERTILE THAN THE GORGE IN WHICH WE HAVE TOUCHED DOWN.
HE HAS SPOTTED A WOODED SAVANNA IN THE NEW DISTANCE. IT IS THERE THAT HE WILL CONDUCT OUR ANALYSES OF MINERAL, SOIL, AND FOLIAGE.
BUT I CANNOT PREVENT MYSELF FROM DISCERNING A DEEPER MOTIVE IN RAMMARR'S CHOICE OF LOCALITIES.
I SENSE THAT HE FINDS THE MANTLE OF GODHOOD UNDESERVED AND THEREFORE DISTASTEFUL...
...AND MORE THAN WISHING TO REACH THE SAVANNA, HE WISHES TO LEAVE THE UNWARRANTED WORSHIP OF THE PEASANTRY.
THEY FLY--!
THE GODS FLY--!
DOES IT PAIN HIM TO REALIZE THAT THE MEANS OF HIS DEPARTURE ONLY PROVIDES EVIDENCE FOR A NEW MIRACLE...?

PERU—JANUARY 28, 1975
THERE'S THE CAVE, JOHNNY -- SITTING THERE NAKED AS A JAYBIRD! THERE MUST BE LITERALLY DOZENS OF SIMILAR CAVES IN THIS JUNGLE ALONE--!
SURELY YOU DON'T HOPE TO DISCOVER THEM ALL YOURSELF, CHARLES...?
MAYBE NOT, JOHN, BUT EVEN IF I NEVER FIND ANYTHING AGAIN... I'LL REST EASY KNOWING I'VE MADE A SINGLE DISCOVERY LIKE--
--THIS.
MAGNIFICENT, AREN'T THEY, JOHNNY? DEFINITELY PREHISTORIC... AND PERHAPS THE OLDEST CAVE-PAINTINGS EVER FOUND IN SOUTH AMERICA--!
WAIT A MINUTE, CHARLES, LET ME HAVE THAT FLASHLIGHT...
LOOK AT THIS, CHARLES -- A GROUP OF STONE-AGE MEN KNEELING BEFORE THE FLIGHT OF THEIR GODS...
AND THESE WINGS ON THE MAIN GOD'S HEAD...
REMIND YOU OF THE INDIAN CHIEF'S STORY...? MAYBE THE LEGEND WAS PASSED DOWN THROUGH MORE GENERATIONS THAN EVEN YOU SUSPECTED, JOHNNY.
YES... MORE GENERATIONS THAN METHUSELAH CAN SHAKE A STICK AT--!
CHARLES--DO YOU REMEMBER THAT FRIEZE OF HIEROGLYPHICS WE SAW AT THE PERUVIAN MUSEUM?
YES. WHY?
I WANT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT IT.
TOMORROW!

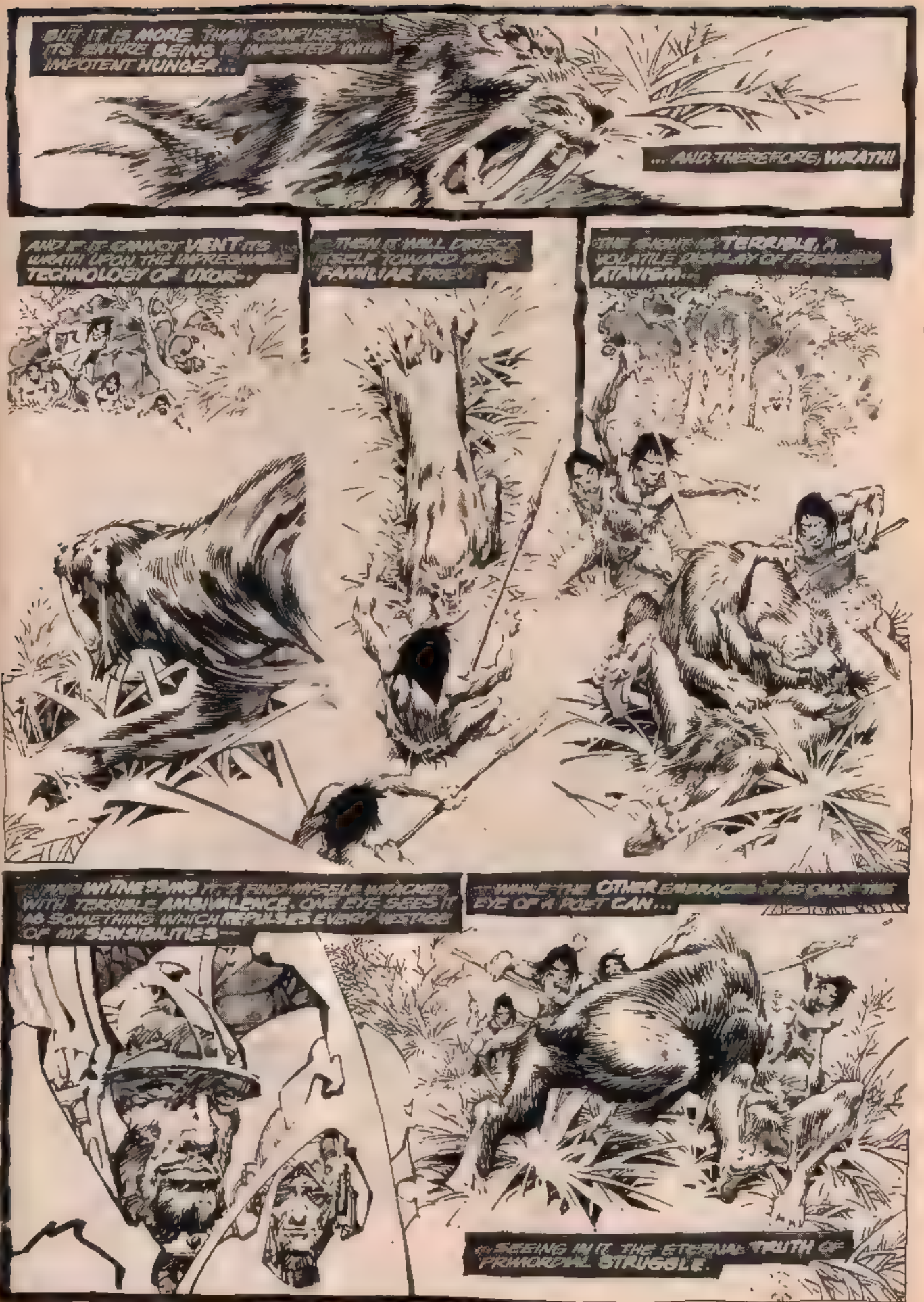

NIGHT HAS ENGULFED THE INFANT WORLD IN A DARKNESS UNBROKEN BY THE REFLECTIVE LIGHT OF CITIES AND VEHICLES. AND YET THE CREW PROVIDES ITS OWN LIGHT TO CONTINUE OUR PROGRAM OF EXAMINATION AND OBSERVATION.
IRONIC THAT OUR STAY ON A WORLD OF BOUNTIFUL RESOURCES SHOULD BE LIMITED BY THE FINITE FOOD RESERVES ABOARD THE NEXUS... BUT THE FACT REMAINS THAT WHILE WE MAY EXAMINE WHATEVER THIS WORLD HAS TO OFFER, WE MAY NOT SO MUCH AS TASTE ITS SMALLEST BERRY.
LIGHTS... GLEAMING THROUGH THE SWOLLEN GROWTH OF RAMPANT FOLIAGE—DISTANT ILLUMINED ON THE REMAINING FACE OF DARKNESS...
...APPROACHING.
COMMANDER RAAMAN?
I HAVE SEEN THEM, HERALX... AND NOW THAT YOU HAVE SEEN THEM, I SUGGEST YOU IGNORE THEM.

BUT I CANNOT IGNORE THE STRANGE BEAUTY OF THE LIGHTS, OR THE SIGNIFICANCE THEY MIGHT HOLD. MY EYES, MESMERIZED BY THEIR FLOATING PROCESSION, HAVE FOLLOWED THEM ALL THE WAY TO THE EMERGENCE OF THE PRIMITIVE CHIEFTAIN.
HALT.
WE HAVE FOUND OUR GOD!
COME FORWARD-- AND BEAR THE SACRIFICE WITH HONOR..
THE SACRIFICE OF FRESH MEAT IS WASTED ON US, AND THE CREW ADHERES TO RAAMAN'S ONATION... ACCORDING THE PRIMITIVES LITTLE MORE THAN CASUAL GLANCES...
FATHER FROM THE SKY-- OUR SACRIFICE MEANT ONLY TO APPEASE YOU!! WE HAVE NOT MEANT TO OFFEND YOU--!
PLEASE-- DO NOT DESTROY MY PEOPLE WITH YOUR TERRIBLE LIGHT--!
THEY ARE LIKE CHILDREN... AND NORG, THE FATHER WHO PUNISHES THOSE WHO, CHILD LIKE, AROUSE HIS WRATH!
NORG--!

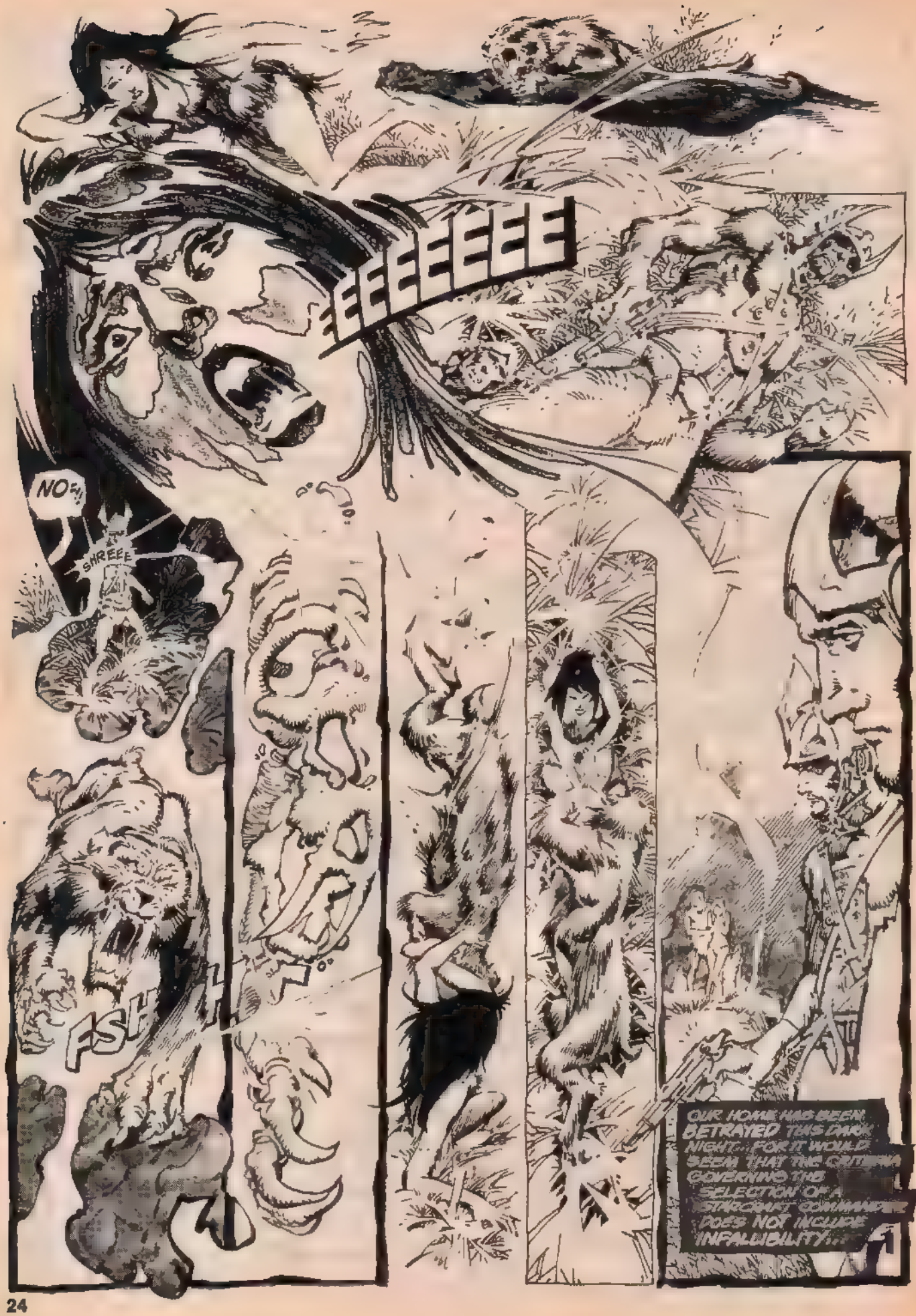
AVERT YOUR LIGHT FROM THE PRIMITIVES!
THE LIGHT CANNOT HARM THEM.
I HAVE ISSUED A COMMAND, AIDE NORG.
WILL YOU COMPLY WITH IT...?
YOUR MERCY IS GREAT, FATHER OF THE GODS...
...AND I THANK YOU FOR SPARING MY PEOPLE THE DEATH WHICH IS YOURS TO COMMAND.
UNABLE TO COMPREHEND THE WORDS EXCHANGED BY RAMAN AND NORG, THE CHIEFTAIN HAS NEVERTHELESS GRASPED THE ESSENCE OF THE CONFRONTATION... PERHAPS BECAUSE HE IS WISE IN MATTERS OF AUTHORITY AND DEFIANCE... AND PERHAPS HE SEES AN EXALTED REFLECTION OF HIMSELF IN THE PRIDE OF RAMAN...


AND AS MY EYES FOLLOW HIM... I GLIMPSED THE FRINGE OF FOREST BEYOND...
--AND THE LAMENT, ALBEIT EXISTS
ABRUPTLY, THE FOLIAGE CHURNS WITH THE THRASHING SHRED OF SAVAGERY INCARNATE...
COMPLETELY ALIEN TO LIXOR, A WORLD LONG SINCE TAMED OF VIOLENCE... A WORLD IMMUNE TO THE HORRIFYING BEAUTY OF A LEAN PREDATOR STREAKING TO CONQUER.
THE COMMANDER, IMPOSSIBLY, SEEMS NOT TO NOTICE--!
RAAMAN--!!

BUT--
TEK
ROAR
ONCE AGAIN I AM REMINDED OF THE QUALITIES WHICH HAVE EARNED ROMAN THE POSITION OF STARCRAFT COMMANDER...
AND OF THE GOD.
THE BEAST IS CONFUSED. FOR JUST AS ITS SAMURAI IS ALIEN TO LIXOR, OUR TECHNOLOGY IS ALIEN TO IT.


BUT IT IS MORE THAN CONFUSED. ITS ENTIRE BEING IS INFESTED WITH IMPOTENT HUNGER...
... AND THEREFORE, WRATH!
AND IF IT CANNOT VENT ITS WRATH UPON THE IMPREGNABLE TECHNOLOGY OF UNOR...
...THEN IT WILL DIRECT ITSELF TOWARD MORE FAMILIAR PREY!
THE RESULT IS TERRIBLE, A VOLATILE DISPLAY OF PRESERVED ATAVISM...
AND WITNESSING IT, I FIND MYSELF WRACKED WITH TERRIBLE AMBIVALENCE. ONE EYE SEES IT AS SOMETHING WHICH REPULSES EVERY VESTIGE OF MY SENSIBILITIES—
...WHILE THE OTHER EMBRACES IT AS ONLY THE EYE OF A POET CAN...
...SEEING IN IT THE ETERNAL TRUTH OF PRIMORDIAL STRUGGLE.

BUT I MUST FORGET MY IDENTITY AS PORTAL AND ASSUME THE FACADE OF CREW-MEMBER...
FOR THERE IS NO ROOM WITHIN THIS FIERCE TABLEAU... FOR EMOTION.
AND YET, HOW MAY I DENY THE AWESOME MAJESTY OF THIS SUPREME STRUGGLE FOR LIFE... AND FOR DEATH...!
LIFE AND DEATH... IN VERY QUINTESSENCE OF EVERY CULTURE IN THE UNIVERSE...
TO BETRAY EITHER, HERE ON THIS WORLD WHICH IS NOT OUR OWN...
...WOULD BE TO PLAY GOD.
WE... CANNOT... INTERFERE...


EEEEEEEEE
NO-!!
SHREEE
FSH
OUR HOME HAS BEEN BETRAYED THIS DARK NIGHT... FOR IT WOULD SEEM THAT THE CRITERIA GOVERNING THE SELECTION OF A STARCRAFT COMMANDER DOES NOT INCLUDE INFALLIBILITY...

BUT TRAGICALLY BECAUSE OF RAAMAN'S FALLIBILITY--BECAUSE OF HIS VERY HUMAN ERROR--
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE--?! AS STARCRAFT COMMANDER, YOU ALONE WERE ENTRUSTED WITH A WEAPON-- AND YOU'VE ABUSED THAT PRIVILEGE THROUGH DIRECT AND DELIBERATE VIOLATION OF THE PRIME DIRECTIVE!!
--AND IT IS MY DUTY AS COMMANDER'S AIDE TO INFORM YOU THIS HEINOUS TRANSGRESSION OF SHIPS LAW WILL NOT GO UNREPORTED!
YOU HAVE FLAGRANTLY INTERFERED WITH THE NATURAL ORDER OF LIFE ON THIS WORLD--
RAAMAN--!
NORG, THIS WOMAN IS INJURED!
TAKE HER TO THE SHUTTLECRAFT, AND PLACE HER IN THE CARE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICERS.
WHAT?!
YOU HEARD ME, AIDE NORG. OR MUST I REMIND YOU THAT I AM STILL THE COMMANDER OF THIS EXPEDITION AND THE STARCRAFT NEXUS?
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE THE COMMANDER OF THE ENTIRE GALAXY--! I WILL NOT OBEY SUCH AN ORDER!!
THEN I SEE THAT I MUST REMIND YOU OF ONE LAST THING. I AM THE SOLE MEMBER OF THIS EXPEDITION ENTRUSTED WITH A WEAPON AND THE DISCRETION TO USE IT. YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN ME USE IT ONCE...
NOW TAKE THE WOMAN TO THE SHUTTLECRAFT BEFORE YOU FORCE ME INTO COMMITTING MY SECOND ERROR OF THE NIGHT.

Continued

# JOURNEY WITH US INTO SPHERES OF WONDER!

First-time-ever comics adaptations of
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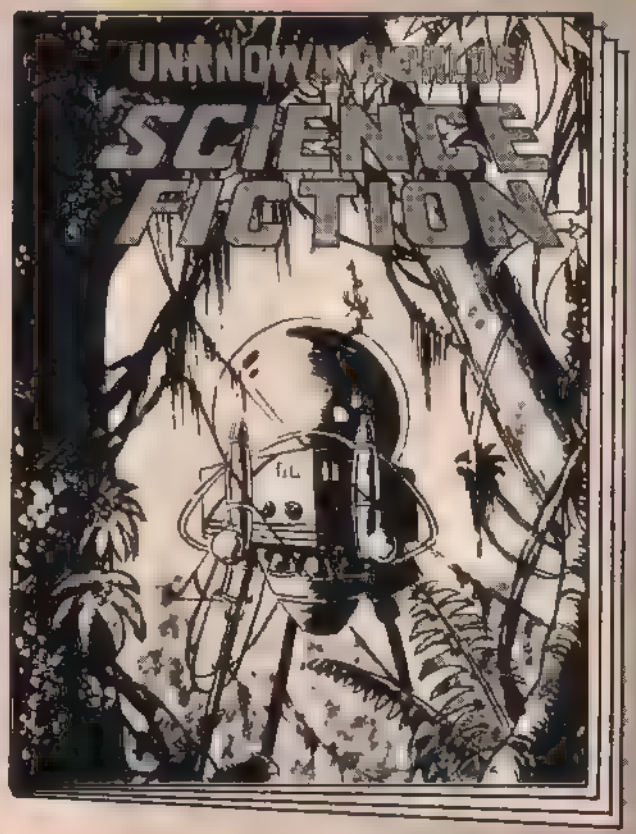
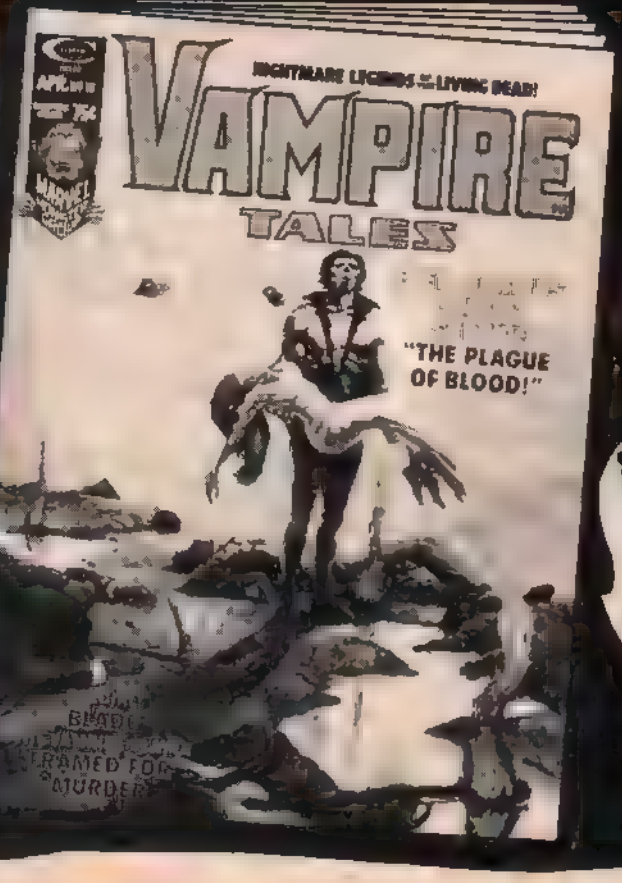



# PLAGUE OF BLOOD!

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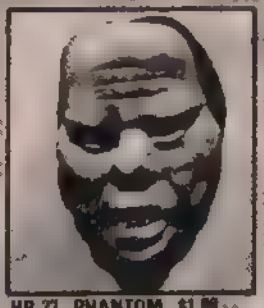

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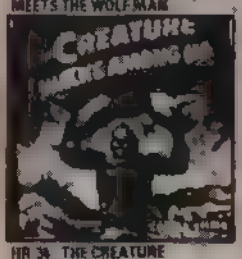


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HR-38. HUNCHBACK - HR 37. WOLFMAN HR-39. FRANKENSTEIN

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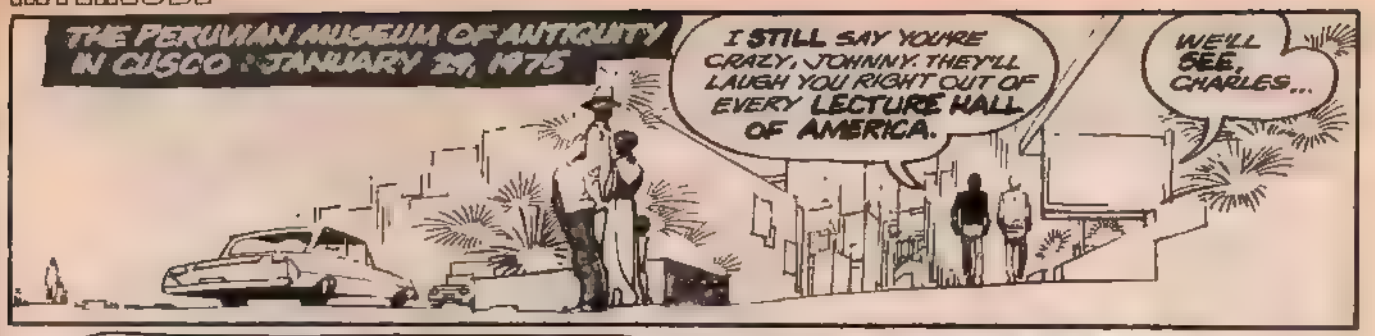
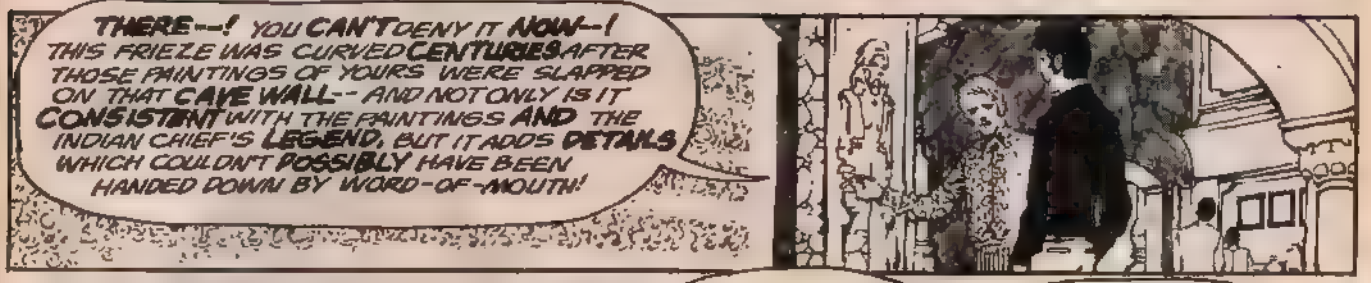
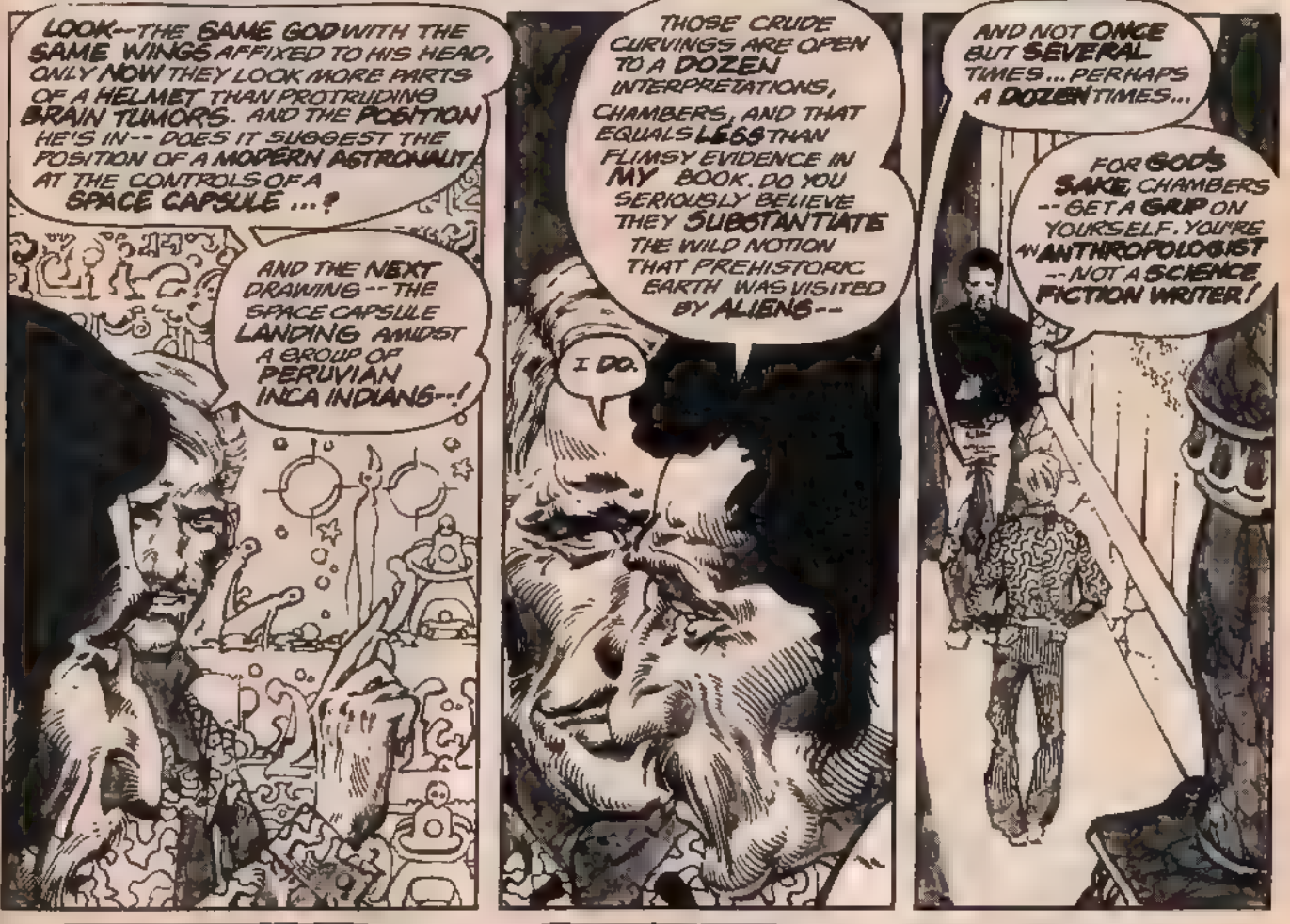

THE PERUVIAN MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITY IN CUSCO : JANUARY 27, 1975
I STILL SAY YOU'RE CRAZY, JOHNNY. THEY'LL LAUGH YOU RIGHT OUT OF EVERY LECTURE HALL OF AMERICA.
WE'LL SEE, CHARLES...


THERE--! YOU CAN'T DENY IT NOW--! THIS FRIEZE WAS CURVED CENTURIES AFTER THOSE PAINTINGS OF YOURS WERE SLAPPED ON THAT CAVE WALL-- AND NOT ONLY IS IT CONSISTENT WITH THE PAINTINGS AND THE INDIAN CHIEF'S LEGEND, BUT IT ADDS DETAILS WHICH COULDN'T POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN HANDED DOWN BY WORD-OF-MOUTH!


LOOK--THE SAME GOD WITH THE SAME WINGS AFFIXED TO HIS HEAD, ONLY NOW THEY LOOK MORE PARTS OF A HELMET THAN PROTRUDING BRAIN TUMORS. AND THE POSITION HE'S IN-- DOES IT SUGGEST THE POSITION OF A MODERN ASTRONAUT AT THE CONTROLS OF A SPACE CAPSULE ...?
AND THE NEXT DRAWING-- THE SPACE CAPSULE LANDING AMIDST A GROUP OF PERUVIAN INCA INDIANS--!
THOSE CRUDE CURVINGS ARE OPEN TO A DOZEN INTERPRETATIONS, CHAMBERS, AND THAT EQUALS LESS THAN FLIMSY EVIDENCE IN MY BOOK. DO YOU SERIOUSLY BELIEVE THEY SUBSTANTIATE THE WILD NOTION THAT PREHISTORIC EARTH WAS VISITED BY ALIENS--
I DO.
AND NOT ONCE BUT SEVERAL TIMES... PERHAPS A DOZEN TIMES...
FOR GOD'S SAKE, CHAMBERS -- GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF. YOU'RE AN ANTHROPOLOGIST -- NOT A SCIENCE FICTION WRITER!

UNTIL FIVE YEARS AGO, CHARLES, THE NOTION OF A MANNED FLIGHT TO THE MOON WAS NOTHING MORE THAN THE MAD "DELUSIONS" OF A SCIENCE FICTION WRITER...
...AND WHO GOT THE LAST LAUGH ON THAT ONE ???

THE NIGHT WAS PASSED IN SILENCE, WITH NEITHER RAAMAN NOR THE CREW WILLING TO COMMENT ON THE ALTERED DESTINY OF A WORLD.
NOW, RAAMAN RETURNS TO THE SHUTTLECRAFT. HAVE ELECTED, SILENTLY, TO ACCOMPANY HIM.
I HAVE ANTICIPATED HIS INTENTIONS CORRECTLY. DELIBERATELY AND NEGLECTING ROUTINE CONTACT WITH THE ORBITING NEXUS, HE PROCEEDS TO
— THE SURGERY CHAMBER.
IMMEDIATE OFFICER'S REPORT! WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS TORTURE--?
COMMANDER RAAMAN--! WE... WE'RE MERELY EXAMINING THIS FEMALE SPECIMEN.
SINCE IT'S HIGHLY IRREGULAR TO BRING AN INDIGENOUS LIFE-FORM ABOARD SHIP, WE NATURALLY ASSUMED THAT YOU WISHED AN EXAMINATION ... PERHAPS EVEN A VIVISECTION...
AND OF COURSE AIDE NORG DID NOTHING TO CORRECT YOUR ASSUMPTION.
REMOVE THOSE HIDEOUS PROBES FROM YOUR "SPECIMEN"--
AND RELEASE HER FROM THE SHIP IMMEDIATELY!

WILL LXOR EVER FORGIVE THEM...
"EVEN IF THEY CANNOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING."
I THINK NOT.

-- DEVILS FROM THE SKY!! THEY HAVE TAKEN AWAY HIS DAUGHTER-- SHE WHO HAS BEEN PROMISED TO ME -- AND STILL OUR CHIEFTAIN DOES NOTHING!!
HE IS NO LONGER FIT TO GUIDE OUR TRIBE! HE IS WEAK--!
HE HAS ALWAYS LUSTED AFTER POWER AND AUTHORITY--
SILENCE, SHAMAN! IT IS YOU WHO ARE WEAK-- YOU WHO MUST SEEK YOUR POWER IN TRYING TO DESTROY THE POWER OF OTHERS--!
YOU WILL LEAVE THIS TRIBE-- NOW!!
... BUT EVEN I COULD NOT GUESS AT THE FULL EXTENT OF HIS CONSUMING LUST!
NORG-- PUT DOWN THAT WEAPON--!
NO, "COMMANDER" RAAMAN. I HAVE OBEYED YOUR ORDERS FOR THE LAST TIME... AND I HAVE DECIDED TO TAKE MY LEAVE OF THIS CRAFT...
INDEED OF UXOR ITSELF.
YES, MY "CHIEFTAIN"-- I WILL LEAVE THIS TRIBE...
... BUT I WILL LEAVE IN HONOR, AND NOT AT THE POINT OF YOUR SPEAR!
FOR, WHY SHOULD I TOIL AT YOUR COMMAND-- WHEN I CAN COMMAND THE DESTINY OF AN ENTIRE WORLD--? THE PRIMITIVES THINK WE'RE GODS--AND BELIEVE ME, I SHALL FULFILL THEIR ESTIMATION!
AND YOU, RAAMAN--ARE YOU ANY LESS MAD IN YOUR OWN WAY...?
YOU'RE MAD, NORG!

I WILL LEAVE-- AND I WILL PROVE MY STRENGTH BY RIDDING OUR LAND OF THE DEVILS WHO STEAL OUR FOOD AND OUR WOMEN--!
AND WHEN I RETURN OUR TRIBE SHALL TAKE A NEW CHIEFTAIN-- A CHIEFTAIN OF POWER AND STRENGTH!!
NORG'S LAST WORDS HAVE BOREN AFTER THE FLEES OF RAAMAN'S SOUL. HE IS DEPARTING AND RETURNS TO NORG'S INSANE DEMANDS.
PASS, NORG. I WILL NOT STOP YOU IT IS NO LONGER MY PLACE TO DICTATE WHO WILL OR WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH THE DENIZENS OF THIS WORLD.
SO... A LAST TATTER OF WISDOM, RAAMAN. STILL, I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD ATTEMPT TO STOP ME. IT WOULD HAVE MADE MY FARE-WELL TO YOU ALL THE MORE SATISFYING.

THE SHAMAN HAS COME TO EXORCISE AND [illegible] WHO HAS SUCCUMBED TO [illegible] CHARISMA AND [illegible] -- AND MAKE THE SHAMAN'S INTENTIONS!
ACROSS THE [illegible] WINE VOYAGE SOURED TO A BITTER TASTE IN MY MOUTH... A TASTE WHICH WILL NEVER AGAIN ALLOW THE [illegible] OF NORTRX
HAIL, PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET
I HAVE DESCENDED FROM THE HEAVENS TO WALK AMONG YOU...
I CAN SENSE IT AS THOUGH I HAVE [illegible] ACHIEVED UNION WITH HIS THOUGHTS... THE DARKEST TIME HE SEEKS DEEPLY WITHIN [illegible] REMONATION... AND
APPREHEND HIM.. GENTLY... AND BRING HIM INTO THE CRAFT.
ALREADY HE ANTICIPATES HIS [illegible] ARE FROM COMMUNICATION...
SO STRANGER... I WONDER HOW WE HAVE NOT COME [illegible] WITHOUT QUESTION THE [illegible] WHICH HERALD [illegible] ADVENT OF OUR POWER
WE SHALL BE ALONE WITH HIM, HERALX -- JUST YOU AND I...
WHAT I WILL SAY TO HIM MUST BE RECORDED... AND YET I CANNOT SURRENDER IT TO THE COMPUTER. IT WOULD NEVER UNDERSTAND...
SELFLESSLY, I HAVE FORSAKEN THE REWARDS OF THE FIRMAMENT TO GUIDE YOUR DESTINY...
LOOK UPON ME, AND SEE IN ME A DEMONSTRATION OF --
--GREAT POWER!
SHREEEE
KRAK!

FOR I AM YOUR GOD --
--AND THERE ARE NO OTHERS BEFORE ME!!
WE ARE NOT YOUR GODS.. NOR ARE WE DEVILS.
WE ARE MEN, LIKE YOU --NEITHER TO BE EXALTED, NOR CONDEMNED.
WE HAVE COME FROM OUR HOME IN THE STARS, HERE...
...TO YOUR HOME IN THE STARS, HERE.
IT WAS A GREAT MISTAKE, BUT WE COULD NOT STAY AWAY...
...FOR YOU ARE THE SONS OF OUR ANCESTORS.
YOU, WOMAN--! COME...
COME TO YOUR GOD!

LONG AGO, THERE WAS A WAR... BETWEEN OUR WORLD AND ANOTHER BUT THE PEOPLE OF MY WORLD BELIEVE THEMSELVES TO BE ABOVE THE DUTIES OF PHYSICAL CONFLICT.
SO MY ANCESTORS BRED A RACE OF SOLDIERS - BEINGS DEDICATED TO SAVAGERY AND PRIMORDIAL STRIFE...
THE SOLDIERS WERE FEW, FOR EVEN THEN MY WORLD POSSESED GREAT MACHINES OF DESTRUCTION... AND THE SOLDIERS WERE CONFINED TO AREAS OF CONFLICT DEEMED BENEATH THE DIGNITY OF THE GREAT MACHINES.
THE WAR ENDED, AND THE SOLDIERS NO LONGER NEEDED. THEY WERE A BURDEN, AND THEY WERE AN EMBARRASSMENT...
... AND SO WE SENT THEM HERE. TO THIS WORLD SO MUCH LIKE OUR OWN...
MORE FOOD!
MORE FOOD FOR YOUR FATHER FROM THE SKIES --!
THEY WERE YOUR ANCESTORS, SHAMAN... AND THEY WERE FOREVER OUR SHAME.
THERE IS SILENCE... THE SILENCE OF CONFESSION FINALLY BROACHED AND THE SILENCE OF NEW AWE... THE SILENCE OF THE VOID BETWEEN THE STARS... AND THE COMMUNION OF DEAD SOULS.
RAAMAH KNOWS THAT I HAVE RECORDED EVERYTHING... KNOWS THAT HE HAS DAMNED HIMSELF IN THE VAIN ATTEMPT TO EXCULPATE THE VAST [illegible] OF A DEAD PAGAN WORLD.

Continued 37

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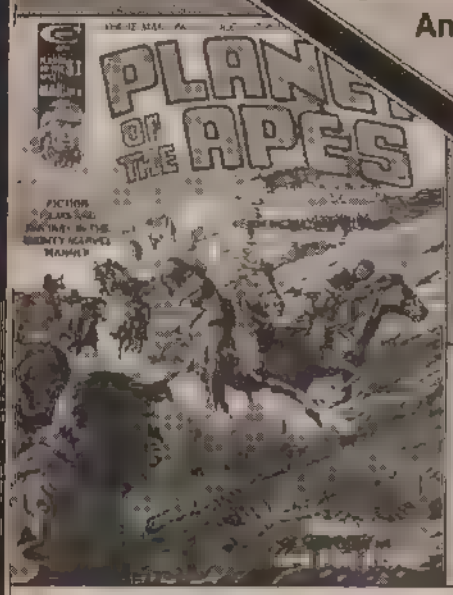


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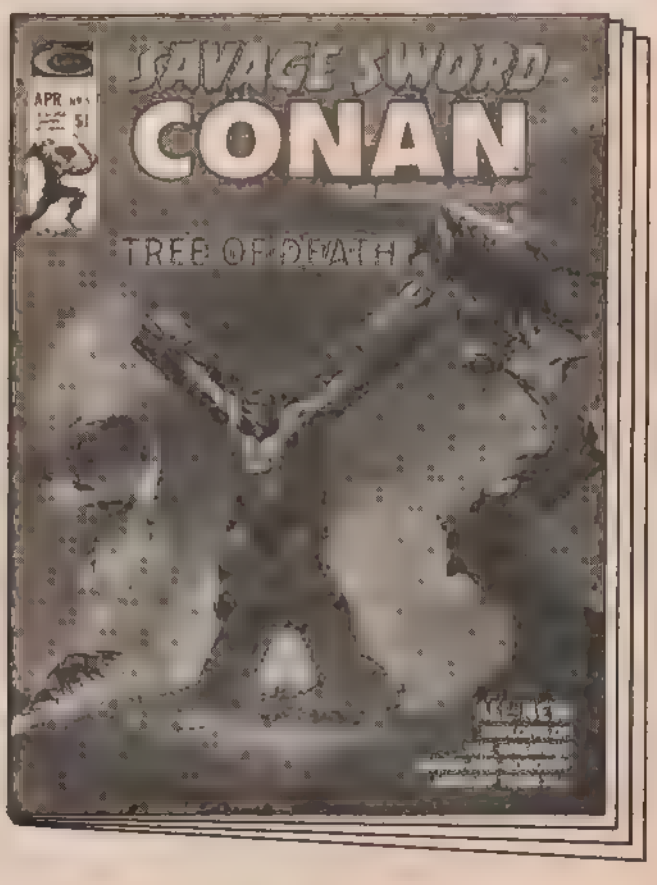


FEW FEBRUARYS LATER...
CHARLES-- COME HERE A MINUTE...
I WANT YOU TO LOOK AT SOMETHING.

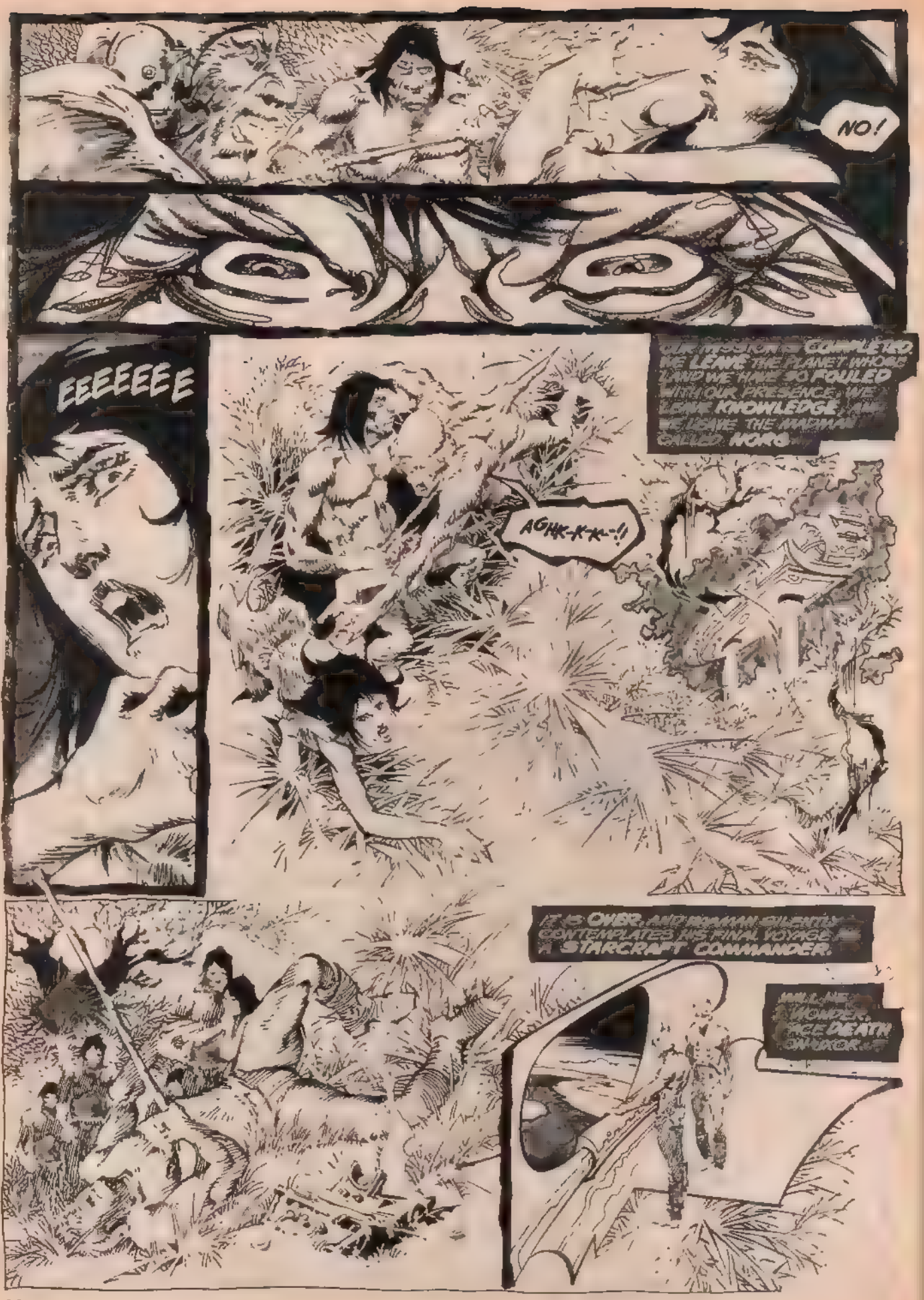
WHAT IS IT?
I DON'T KNOW. EXACTLY. IT'S METAL-- OBVIOUSLY TOOLED ON A LATHE... AND THERE ISN'T A SIGN OF CORROSION OR RUST...
SO...?

SO I PULLED IT OUT OF THE EARTH DOWN THERE--
-- AT THE SAME LEVEL FROM WHICH YOU'VE BEEN EXCAVATING ARTIFACT'S FROM THE STONE AGE.

...OUR MISSION WAS TO OBSERVE YOU, OUR FORMER SOLDIERS, AND THE WORLD YOU HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ADOPT. WE WERE CURIOUS... TO SEE HOW YOU HAD EVOLVED... IF YOU HAD CONSTRUCTED A SOCIETY OF PEACE... CONTRIVED A LANGUAGE...
BUT INSTEAD OF MERE OBSERVATION-- THE SATIATION OF SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY-- WE HAVE SERVED YOU A GREATER INJUSTICE THAN THE ONE WHICH FIRST SET YOU HERE.

DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME, SHAMAN...?
I... DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE SOUND OF YOUR WORDS..
...BUT I HEAR YOUR MEANING... INSIDE MY HEAD...
GOOD. I CANNOT CORRECT WHAT I OR MY RACE HAVE DONE. I CAN ONLY SAY I AM SORRY.
YOU MUST LIVE ON YOUR OWN TERMS NOW IN PRIDE AND HUMILITY, SORROW AND JOY, HOPE AND DESPAIR... ALL OF YOUR OWN MAKING. BUT YOU MUST ALSO BE AWARE OF YOUR GENESIS..
... AND YOU MUST EXPLAIN TO YOUR PEOPLE WHAT I HAVE EXPLAINED TO YOU. THE STORY MUST BE PASSED DOWN TO YOUR SONS, AND TO THEIR SONS, AND TO THEIR SONS AFTER THEM.
AND REMEMBER ABOVE ALL ELSE -- WE ARE NOT GODS! THE ONE FROM THIS SHIP CALLED NORG IS A DANGEROUS MAN, BUT HE IS NOT A GOD.
FINALLY, YOU WILL TAKE THIS DEVICE WITH YOU... AND YOUR PEOPLE WILL GUARD IT THROUGH THE AGES. IT IS SACRED...
... AND ONE DAY THE SONS OF YOUR SONS WILL UNDERSTAND IT, AND THEY WILL BE REWARDED WITH GREAT KNOWLEDGE.
THE SHAMAN LEAVES, CLUTCHED TO HIS BREAST THE KEY TO THE COSMOS...
FAREWELL, SHAMAN. YOUR LIFE IS YOUR OWN.
THE MEMORY TAKES MASTER COMPUTER

PEOPLE--! THE MEN ARE NOT GODS! THEY ARE LIKE US--!
I HAVE A SACRED TOOL OF KNOWLEDGE--
PSSHHHT!
SHHHT!
PLUP
YOU HAVE SLAIN ONE OF OUR PEOPLE FOR NO REASON--!
I'M YOUR GOD--!
I DO WHATEVER I WANT...
AND RIGHT NOW I WANT THE GIRL...


NO!
EEEEEEE
AGHK-K-K-!!
IT IS OVER, AND BRAHAM SILENTLY CONTEMPLATES HIS FINAL VOYAGE AS A STARCRAFT COMMANDER.

IF SO, HIS SACRIFICE HAS BEEN HIS TO GIVE, WITH FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONSEQUENCES.
WAS IT WORTH IT... TO GIVE THE PRIMITIVES THEIR FIRST TASTE OF KNOWLEDGE...?
COMPUTER

HERALX, YOU ARE A POET...
YOU WILL UNDERSTAND...
UNDERSTAND WHAT, RAAMAN?
THE WOMAN...

"... SHE IS WITH CHILD...!"
I KNOW, RAAMAN, BUT YOU WILL NEVER KNOW... HOW I WEEP FOR YOU.
FIN

# Erich von Däniken: The Man Behind A Phenomenon

Erich von Däniken is a 38-year-old Swiss native who has become an international phenomenon caught up in a whirlwind of controversy with the publication of three books which have sold an estimated 25 million copies worldwide. Each of the books—*Chariots of the Gods?, Gods From Outer Space* (originally published as *Return to the Stars*), and his newest, *Gold of the Gods*, deals with his theories that the earth was visited in ancient times by astronauts from another solar system who deposited the seeds that grew into today's civilization.

Evidence of their presence, von Däniken maintains, is scattered about the globe, and he details vast amounts of it in his three books, and in his lecture presentations.

Born April 14, 1935, in Zofingen, Switzerland, von Däniken was graduated from a European "gymnasium" in Fribourg, Switzerland. There his formal education ended. When a breakdown in communications with his father over philosophical matters developed, he was apprenticed to a hotel, the family line of business on his mother's side.

But the driving need to get closer to the truth about man's evolution had the young von Däniken in its grip. In his late teens he had come to believe that archaeology, if viewed from a new perspective, might hold the key to that truth. The Bible already had supplied von Däniken with rich resource material. In fact, von Däniken found the prophet Ezekiel's description of "fiery chariots" to be an unsophisticated account of an advanced type of spaceship, a theory later scientifically examined and supported by NASA space engineer Josef F. Blumrich.

Thus, 20 years ago, the indefatigable von Däniken set upon a course to question all previous explanations of the origins and development of the human race. Unfettered by the discipline that might have encumbered a formally trained scientist, he read and studied and visited every site and artifict possible in his quest "to find the truth."

As his time and money allowed (for he still was pursuing a career as a hotelier), he researched such age-old materials as the writing of Biblical prophets, books of Tibetan lamas, stone relics of the Mayas and Incas, pyramids of Egypt, the Stonehenge, Easter Island, cave drawings in North Africa, unusual markings in Japan, Italy, Australia and much other evidence in widespread parts of the world.

Although the target of some ridicule from traditional archaeologists, von Däniken does have support from some members of the scientific community. In addition to Josef Blumrich, aspects of his findings and theories have been verified by Dr. Karl Kuhlenberg of Aachen University and Dr. Herman Oberth, the father of the rocket. As for his detractors, von Däniken believes that in the coming years, with the acquisition of new knowledge and the inclination of new generations to see with different perception, resistance to his theories from the scientific community will lessen.

As stated in a recent issue of The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics Journal: "It is especially vain and naive, in this space age, to believe that we alone are the only planet to possess any degrees of intelligence and engineering sophistication. Von Däniken's *Chariots of the Gods?* more than adequately dissipates our vanity and seeks to usher us into a new sense of maturity."

**Erich von Däniken, author of *Chariots of the Gods?, Gods from Outer Space*, and *Gold of the Gods*.**

Meanwhile, von Däniken continues to research, write and lecture. *Chariots of the Gods?*, first published in 1968, was originally intended by the author to serve as a device to stimulate people to think more openly. Since its publication, von Daniken has collected enough material to convince him that the Earth indeed was visited by astronauts from outer space at approximately 500 B.C. These ideas are outlined more in later books.

Von Däniken has traveled all over the world in pursuit of and delivering information. In 1972, alone, he flew some 125,000 miles, half in pursuit of archaeological resource material and the remainder primarily on the lecture trail. His followers have become so numerous that the Australian press diagnosed the phenomenon as "Däniken itis." The sale of the Bantam editions of his books (now more than 6,000,000 in print) and the success of the motion picture "Chariots of the Gods?" based on two of his books indicate that the movement has certainly caught on in North America.

When he is not lecturing or exploring, Erich von Däniken makes his home in Bonstetten, Switzerland, with his wife, Elisabeth, and their 10-year-old daughter, Cornelia.

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[*Biographical information courtesy of Sun International Productions, Ind., producers of the film version of "Chariots of the Gods?"*]

# The Chariots of Erich von Däniken

by ED SUMMER

*Being an article dealing with the hypothesis that the history of mankind has, at some time or another, been influenced by beings of unknown origin, especially those from somewhere outside of our Solar System. This hypothesis as expressed by Erich von Däniken, Andrew Tomas, Robert Charroux, and a multiplicity of other folks of greater or lesser scientific background. Given, also, that the orthodox scientific community takes a rather dim view, if indeed it bothers to look at all, of the whole proceedings. Where does that leave the Theory of Extraterrestrialism? And supposing it is true, then what? Or, says the pragmatist, why bother in the first place? Answers to these questions, and more unanswerable questions, and questions yet unborn lurk in the following pages.*

I think this is a vice we're writing. I recommend it to those who have hankered for a new sin.

*Charles Fort, 1919*

Think in different categories

*P.D Ouspensky*
*1927*

The thing that ails us is that we are human. We have perfected the Art of Being Human to the point of its being a fairly high skill. It is no accident that, almost without exception, the section of our anatomy most firmly packed and fully rounded is neither our head, which often contains a brain, nor our bosom, where languishes our heart.

From the mass of people, . . . the professional spectators, we seldom hear a cry of anguish, unless the picture tube blows . . . We are a comfortable crowd. We rest well on what we have. There is no need to make the most of it; it is already the most.

*Walt Kelly*
*1956*

The essence of the scientific method is that the investigator must not adopt a preconceived idea or conclusion, he must not select those bits of data which favor his hypothesis and overlook those that go against it. The salient scientific error perpetuated by Blue Book (the U.S. Air Force Flying Saucer Report) is portrayed in the above theorem. So certain is Blue Book of its working hypothesis that it reminds one of the doctor who was so certain that all abdominal swellings were the result of tumors that he failed to recognize that his patient was pregnant.

*J. Allen Hynek*
*1974*

*RADICAL THEORY Are these massive stone carvings on Easter Island representations of superior beings who visited the enigmatic island thousands of years ago? (A scene from the motion picture 'Chariots of the Gods?' based on the book by Erich von Däniken Courtesy of Sun International Productions, Inc.)*

Erich von Däniken is the most recent and outspoken in a long line of men who have speculated that this island earth has been and is, perhaps, still being visited by beings from other worlds.

Most of these speculations have taken the form of thrilling and provocative science fiction. Edgar Rice Burroughs took us to Mars to fight the Martians, and H.G. Wells brought the Martians to earth to fight us. Even Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End* and *2001: A space Odyssey*, uncannily accurate as they seem to be, are fictions. And that is precisely where von Däniken and his associates come in.

Von Däniken contends that he has real, hold-it-in-your-hand scientific-archaeological evidence that the pipe-dreams of Wells, Burroughs, Clarke, Asimov, Bradbury have basis in *fact*.

His book *Chariot of the Gods?* is a runaway international best-seller. Something about this strange conglomeration of science and yellow journalism (and, some say, science *fiction*) has grabbed the public imagination and held it fiercely. Von Däniken's lecture tour has attracted great crowds of people in cities all over North America

The assertions of *Chariots* have been blasted by scientists and archaeologists, and especially by theologians. Some of these attacks have exploded von Däniken's claims, but there is a sizeable bastion of information that, so far, no one has explained away.

## THE PROBLEMS OF PREHISTORY

Let's stop for a moment and see where all this fits in with work-a-day mankind. We poor mortals of 1975 live in a sliver of time as the culmination of millions and billions of years of history and evolution. Whatever lies in those shadows and mists out of which we have come is a matter of great conjecture, to say the least.

After all, it's easy enough to go down to your local library and look up the microfilmed neqspapers of 10, even 100 years ago, and see what the weather was on a Tuesday in 1878, or who died, or what the leading politicians said. But when we begin to consider the events of six thousand or ten or 100,000 years ago, the microfilm files suddenly give out. We must rely on myths, on stories, on shattered fragments of bone and pottery.

We of the Western World have an even worse problem. Our own United States dates back barely 400 years if we stretch things and consider the first colonists as a starting point. Yet, there are civilizations on this planet, China being a prominent example, that have a continuous, unbroken historical record dating back nearly 4000 years.

The West lives in a sort of Dark Age lighted dimly by our stunning technological achievements. It's humbling to consider that Western science has accepted the Copernican Solar System with the Sun in the center and the planets travelling around it for only a few hundred years. Yet, we find astronomical observatories of great advancement and splendor in Egypt, India, Peru; even Stonehenge in England is believed to have been devoted to the study of the stars. And here's the rub, Horatio: all of those observatories were built thousands of years ago. Makes Western science seem a little childlike.

## WE ARE NOT THE FIRST

What we find then is that many of the so-called "great discoveries" of the last 100 years were discovered previously, long before any of our current "great men" even thought of them. This is somewhat disquieting to our sense of our own achievements.

At this point, let us raise the first of several major questions to explore: How did supposedly "primitive peoples" manage to accomplish their stunning architectural and scientific feats when we moderns, in 1975, are struggling to equal or are incapable of duplicating many of them? And the corollary to that question: How long ago did they really accomplish them?

Archaeology has struck against the perplexing problem of an ever-receding horizon for civilization, disappearing farther and farther into the past. Once we think we have neatly pinned down dates for the construction of, say, the Great Pyramid, some new bit of evidence informs us that these dates are nowhere near early enough.

*A DILEMMA FOR ARCHAEOLOGISTS How old are the Great Pyramids, and the other great mysteries of antiquity? Every time archaeologists think they know, new findings push the dates back—and back (Photo courtesy of United Press International)*

## THE BIBLE AS NON-HISTORY

I have in my personal library a Bible from the 19th Century that coolly and emphatically informs us that the date of the Creation of the World was 4319 B.C. And I'm sure that this was a startlingly ancient number in its day. But it seems comic and absurd in the light of the billions of years that are thrown about by Cosmologists and Geologists today.

The same Biblical source assures us that Man and Woman (Adam and Eve, to be precise) were quite literally created six days later. Even the most conservative modern anthropological datings put modern man's evolutionary birth at no less than 25,000 years ago.

Evolution is another sticky wicket. The Tennessee Monkey Trial is within the memory of living men, but most of us take the "truth" of Darwin's Theory of Evolution and Natural Selection for granted. There are still problems, though, with evolution. Archaeologists find bits of evidence that don't quite fit: highly sophisticated men and cultures existing at times when there should only, according to accepted theory, have been ignorant cave men. And here we raise the other important questions: Where did man really come from in the first place? and the follow-up: How and When did we evolve?

There is the mountain we have to climb: Where did we come from? How did we accomplish what we did? When did we really do it all? *Why?* It's not all as easy as those microfilmed newspapers want to make it seem. Most of our evidence is hearsay, rumor, written tradition, oral tradition, the profane books, the Apocrypha, the sacred books, the Bible, paintings found on cave walls or pyramid tunnels.

## GODS FROM OUTER SPACE

Erich von Däniken, Raymond Drake (an historian), Ralph and Judy Blum (reporters), Josef F. Blumrich (a N.A.S.A. scientist), Alan and Sally Landsburg (television producers), Robert Charroux, Andrew Tomas, Charles Fort, and Barry Downing (a Presbyterian pastor) have all written books that indicate one possible answer to these questions: that the history of mankind on the planet earth has throughout and even before our history began, been observed and consciously influenced—if not controlled—by *extraterrestrial intelligence.*

It is important to note that, to the best of my knowledge, none of the writings of any of these men or the many others that I am familiar with, take an atheistic position.

Erich von Däniken was attacked by many people because they believed that he was denying the existence of God with his speculations. In his latest book *Gold of the Gods*, von Däniken is careful to point out in one special chapter that his intention is in no way

*VISITOR FROM OUTER SPACE?· Is this head, found carved into rock on Easter Island, the representation of a visitor from the stars? (A scene from the motion picture "Chariots of the Gods?" based on the book by Erich von Däniken. Courtesy of Sun International Productions, Inc.)*

sacrilegious. The purpose of his hypothesis is to demonstrate a different perspective for examining our history. This perspective can only enhance our appreciation of religion in giving us a greater knowledge of the grandeur and marvelous complexity of the universe.

In no way is it intended that the Almighty God of the Christian, Jewish, Moselm, Hindu, Buddhist, or any religion for that matter, be directly equated with a strange scaly monster from another Solar System. Rather, that these beings, who seem for the most part to be humanoid, appear to be acting as agents of the Divine.

It is vital to understand this point, because one of the major sources in the pursuit of extraterrestrial archaeology is the *Bible*. What is being suggested is not that the Bible is wrong, but that our interpretation of the Bible and many other important historic documents including the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and the Holy *Vedas* of India may have excluded certain admissible truths.

## THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

An old and familiar story may be helpful at this point. Three blind men encounter an elephant for the first time, having no prior knowledge of the existence of such a remarkable beast. The first blind man trips and grasps the elephant's tail which he declares to be a piece of rope. The second blind man blunders into the elephant's leg which is, to be sure, the trunk of a tree. The third blind man, having proceeded further down the road, is grasped by the elephant's trunk. Screaming in horror, the man runs away convinced that he has been attacked by a boa constrictor.

Three men have encountered the same elephant, who, we should remember, stayed an elephant the whole time; yet each man was sincerely convinced—and with good reason—that he had encountered one of three different and mutually exclusive objects. We may also note from this particular telling of the story that the man who tripped was actually helped by the elephant's tail, the man who bumped into the leg thinking it a tree had a neutral experience, but the third man felt sure that he was going to come to bodily harm.

The elephant, I'm sure, would have been much happier with a bag of peanuts, and was otherwise completely unaffected and unchanged by the incident.

In the same way, historical documents and bits of evidence may take on many different meanings to many different observers, even observers with 20-20 vision. Certain things can be agreed upon after a time. Other things are much more controversial. The Bible is a prime example of this kind of source material. There are undoubtedly as many interpretations of the Bible as there are readers.

It is not the purpose of this article to show that the Bible is wrong, especially in the area of moral and social teachings which are among our most precious civilized heritages. What will be examined are certain *events* and the interpretation of these events, the historical meaning and accuracy of these events, *not* their religious significance.

## HISTORY OF THE CHARIOTS

*Chariots of the Gods?* was first published in Europe, in German, in 1968. Since its first American publication by Putnam in 1970, there have been 36 editions to date including the paperback printings. In one month, January 1973, the book went through no less than 7 editions, which must be something of a phenomenon in itself. *Chariots* has inspired countless imitators, some of them outrageous, some, thankfully, much more scientific about the whole thing than von Däniken himself.

In Europe, von Däniken's book (there are now four) was one of many others on the same topic. Robert Charroux (*Forgotten Worlds*) and Andrew Tomas (*We Are Not the First*), as well as Pauwels and Borgior (*The Morning of the*

*Magicians*), have been writing on the subject of Ancient Mysteries for many years. For some reason, their books remained (with the exception of *Morning of the Magicians*) untranslated or unnoticed until the recent craze was provoked in the United States by *Chariots*. It may well be that the title of von Däniken's book was more catchy in a commercial sense.

Americans, it would seem, were more interested in books on Lemuria or Mu, and in flying saucer sightings, than they were in visits by Ancient Astronauts. Such stories were relegated to Xenophobic television series where the Invaders were out to destroy us and take over the world instead of being helpful—which seems to be the rather optimistic viewpoint of *Chariots*.

Apparently, the first North American fans of *Chariots of the Gods?* were in Canada. A film made on the subject by German producers received its first widespread viewings in Toronto, and, later, in a cut-down version, on Canadian television. The film was later screened in this country—long before its recent U.S. release—as a possible nominee in the documentary category of the Academy Awards.

In Switzerland was founded the von Däniken Society, a non-profit, independent society which is dedicated to "the scientific examination of the types of phenomena to which he and other have been pointing, to support research and eventually to undertake fully staffed and organized field expeditions."

**THE AMATEUR AS ARCHAEOLOGIST**

It is an interesting sidelight to note that in the field of archaeology, an amateur rather than a professional status seems to have a certain advantage. Case in point: Heinrich Schliemann, who discovered ancient Troy. Schliemann was a private individual who became obsessed with the idea that Troy really had existed exactly as described by Homer in *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. Soundly pooh-poohed by the orthodoxy, he persevered nonetheless. Simply by following Homer's own words, Schliemann unearthed the ruins of a city that supposedly existed only in myth.

The process was repeated by Sir Arthur Evans when the ruins of the palace of King Minos were discovered on Crete. The story of the Minotaur and the Labyrinth turned out to have a basis in fact: a truth hidden in myth and story.

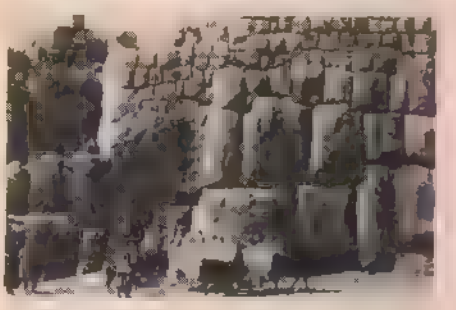
Such unlikely people as Alan Jay Lerner (of "My Fair Lady" fame) are investigating the evidences of extraterrestrial visitation on their own, with their own money, largely because of personal drive, but also because such inquiry seems unsavory to Orthodox Science.

This unsavory aroma is nothing new. A man named Charles Fort is perhaps the archetypical devil's advocate in the case between accepted knowledge and the great unknown. A quietly dedicated fellow, and close friend of the novelist Theodore Dreiser, Fort spent much of his life collecting what he termed "Damned" information. These little tidbits were supposedly true incidents and descriptions that he painstakingly clipped from newspapers and magazines and scientific journals: all incidents that did not fit into the tidy categories of Mainstream Science. Fort filed them in little cubby holes above his desk.

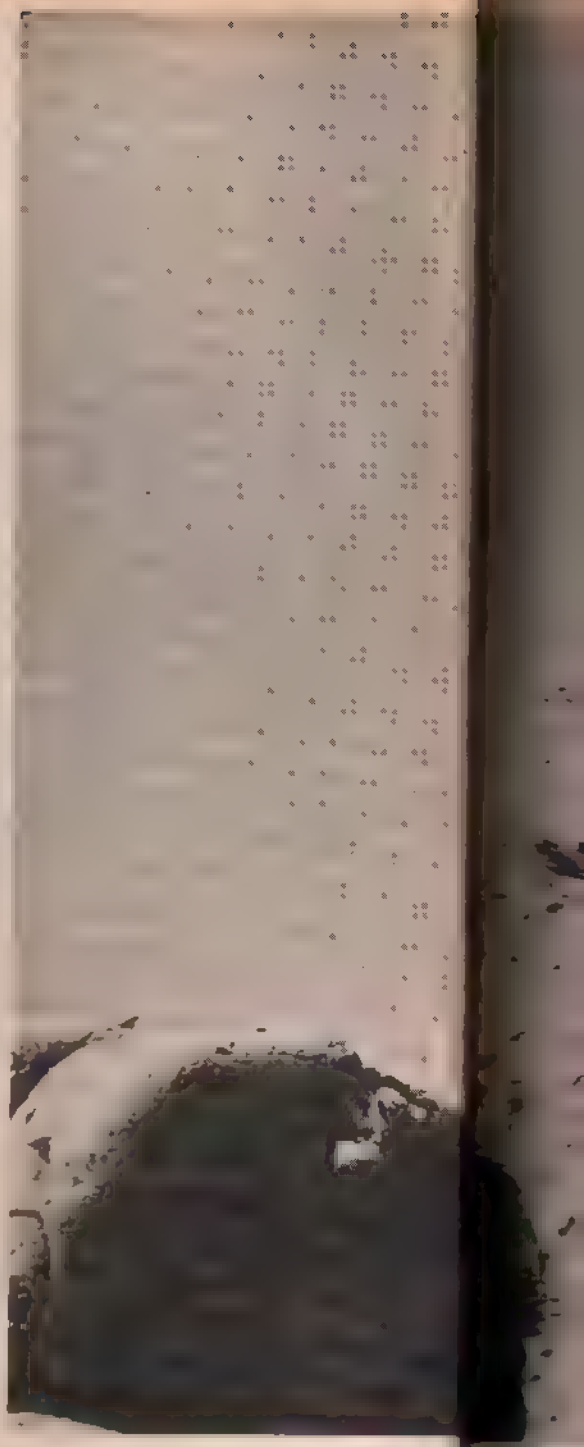
When he had accumulated not dozens, but *thousands* of such mysteries, he organized them into a volume entitled *The Book of the Damned*. Originally published in 1919, the tome must have been a bombshell in its day, in much the same way that *Chariots of the Gods?* is today.

Fort, for example, found scores of descriptions of strange rains which had fallen on our earth: red, green, black, blue, and gelatinous rains. All of them without any scientific explanation, other than assuming that the observers must have been imagining them. Fort found that many of the cases described the "material" which fell as having the odor of rotting organic material—in fact, actual chunks of "stuff" were found on the ground.

Investigators of the day decided that these "chunks" were the result of a tornado having picked up a cow or a goat, dismembering the poor beast in mid air, and depositing its fleshy remains on another field. The only problem with this kind of explanation was that no one had seen a tornado, the bones never showed up, and how did one cow have enough meat to cover literally mile upon square mile of pasture without at least one farmer complaining that his entire herd of cattle, not to mention one cow, had been carried off by



*ANCIENT WALL: Was this strange wall in the Andes designed by an extraterrestrial visitor thousands of years ago? (A scene from the motion picture "Chariots of the Gods?" based on the book by Erich von Däniken Courtesy of Sun International Productions, Inc.)*



*ENIGMA. Did visitors from another planet in ancient times play a role in the building of the sphinx monuments? (A scene from the motion picture "Chariots of the Gods?" based on the book by Erich von Däniken Courtesy of Sun International Productions, Inc.)*

the tornado in the first place?

Fort notes all this rather objectively, and with some humor, proposes (for the first time that I know of anyone doing so) some rather advanced science-speculation. Perhaps this organic material came from an unknown space creature, or was organic material that resulted from an outer space battle between what he called "extra-mundane" creatures; perhaps their spaceships had blown up and this strange "rain" was their remains splashed upon the earth. Perhaps it was a completely alien cargo from an intergalactic trading vessel. Notions summarily dismissed in their day, but well ahead of their time in concept.

## PROJECTIONS OF FANTASY

Today, in 1974, we read comic-books: SPIDER-MAN, FANTASTIC FOUR, and many others. Most of these stories are about everyday people who have a special super power that they obtained by some quirk of fate, freak of science, or backlash of nature. Peter Parker was bitten by a radioactive spider. The Fantastic Four were exposed to radiation whilst zooming about in a spaceship. They all changed into something different from and, in many ways, superior to the average, mortal comic-book fan. They fight evil with their powers for the most part, making them a projection of our hopes, wishes, frustrations. The key word is "projection." To the best of my knowledge, *real* people don't have such powers (though they may be hiding out somewhere, this writer hasn't yet met them in person). Their powers are all feasible, scientifically possible now or in the very near future. Otherwise, we wouldn't read the stories so avidly and find them believeable. Our fantasies must be very close to reality, close enough so that we feel that we can nearly touch them. If they drift too far away, we lose interest: it is much too hard to live out that kind of daydream and still stay in touch with the real world.

For fun, let's suppose that an archaeologist in 2174 A.D. finds a copy of AMAZING FANTASY #15 (the very first Spider-Man story) perfectly preserved, page by page, in super-hard, air-tight plastics—left, no doubt, in the buried ruins of the Baxter Building as the result of one of Reed Richards' experiments.

What will this future archaeologist conclude? That there literally was a real man bitten by a spider who can suddenly crawl up walls and sense nearby danger? Will the archaeologist decide that it is only a story? Will he determine that it is a symbolic code for some mystic achievement that mankind as a whole must strive for? What hath Stan Lee and Steve Ditko wrought?

## THE CLUES OF THE AGES

This is precisely the problem that we have today in interpreting these centuries-old myths in the light of our contemporary knowledge. What are only our cherished stories of today may be interpreted out of all proportion 200 years hence. In the same way, Neanderthal Man's imaginative strivings may appear to us as Super-Scientific knowledge or as just a story for some religious, ethical purpose. Or it may turn out to have been true

To find the truth, such things must be placed in proper context. We must have comparative evidence from verifiably the same historic periods. Things that turn up over and over and over again in diverse places have more likelihood of having their roots in truth than some oddity found only once in only one place.

Sadly, future archaeologists are more likely to find knives, spoons, and forks than they are to find battery-powered Omega watches, so they may conclude that we did nothing but eat and were incapable of telling time. On the other side of the coin, if they find two comic-books that have pictures of cars, then corroborate the pictures with scraps of hubcaps, sparkplugs, and headlights found in the fossilized remains of a used car lot, then it will be reasonable to conclude that 20th Century Man had dominion over the automobile.

In essence, this is the approach of Erich von Däniken. It seems so far to have led him in a strikingly new direction, as well as into some intellectual and archaeological dead ends. On the plus side, the classic example is the huge 18-foot-high drawing of "the great god Mars" found by Henri Lhote at Tassili, in the Sahara, amongst hundreds of other drawings. This figure looks on first glance just like a man in a diving helmet and suit.

*But*, this drawing was done thousands of years ago!

What does it really depict? A diving-suit? Something imaginary? Or, doesn't it look exactly like the spacesuits worn by the astronauts on their early space flights? And how do we account for the appearance of similar drawings in the Tulare region of California? Why did the Japanese of 2000 years ago make little grotesque sculptures of the same form? Why over and over again do primitive men make drawings of figures with "unusual head gear"? Religious ritual? Is all this just too old to be fathomed or verified? Perhaps, but there is a sort of cement that holds things together.

## ASTRONAUTS OF ANTIQUITY

In *Gold of the Gods*, his third book, von Däniken reproduces photos of Kayapo Indians of South America. These photos were taken in 1952, long before there were any real astronauts, especially any known to tribes in the middle of the jungle. They show the natives dressed up like, you guessed it, "astronauts."

And the reason? They are performing a ceremonial ritual in memory of the appearance of a heavenly being named Bop Kororoti who arrived on earth attired in a special suit with a "thunder weapon" that turned enemies to dust. Kororoti taught the natives to hunt and to improve their skills in general. Later he disappeared into the air accompanied by "fiery clouds, smoke and thunder."

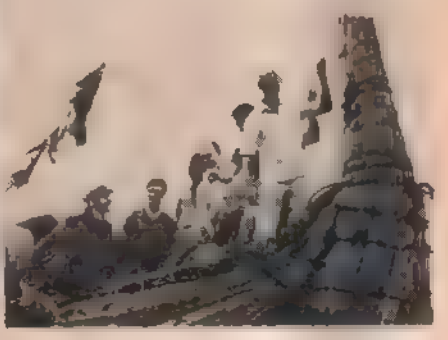
This story, similar to the myths and legends about Quetzalcoatl and those from dozens of other cultures may only be a myth, like Spider-Man. Something to explain the origins and beginnings of traditions, or a story told for diversion. Or it may be a true story handed down for centuries, embellished and pulled out of shape in places, but woven, nonetheless, around true events.

## EASTER ISLAND MYSTERY

On the negative side, von Däniken's first book spends a great deal of time on such notions as the theory that the natives of Easter Island used anti-gravity rays to raise the huge stone heads that dominate the coastline of the island. Von Däniken reasons that the stone heads simply weigh too much to be moved or lifted by mortal man.

Thor Heyerdahl *(The Ra Expeditions)*, on the other hand, went to Easter Island and, in effect, bribed one of the natives to tell him how the trick was done. It turned out to be a simple matter of inertia and leverage. The many-ton heads, once

*ANCIENT SPACEMAN?: Is this figure, found in a Central American temple, the image of a visitor from another world, thousands of years ago? Note how similar the position is to that of a modern-day astronaut. This is one of many provocative suggestions posed in "Chariots of the Gods?", the G-rated film based on the controversial best-seller by iconoclast Erich von Däniken. (Photo courtesy of Sun International Productions, Inc.)*



*FROM KON TIKI TO RA. Author/explorer Thor Heyerdahl and crew stand on the bow of the good ship "Ra" at Safi, Morocco. (Photo courtesy of United Press International.)*

set in motion by a group of men, would slide easily along the ground. After being pushed to its final location where it was to stand for all eternity, the head was raised into position by inserting a series of ever larger pebbles, then stones, then rocks under one end of the head until finally it reached a balance point and could be toppled into an upright position.

We are still left with the mystery of precisely why the statues were put there in the first place, what their "hats" are for, why they seem to have such strange facial features that don't much resemble the indigenous population, and why they are associated with "bird people." But the "anti-gravity" notion was quickly put to rest.

Von Däniken, unfortunately, sometimes resorts to inexplicable misquotes and faulty information. The size of the pyramid blocks are more like 2 1/2 tons, not 20 tons. This kind of poor scholarship pops up all over his books. It sounds convincing in a sophistry sense, but it weakens the scholarly scientific basis of the contentions made.

*MAN DWARFED BY THE AGES The three large pyramids beyond this westward-bound camel caravan average 450 feet in height and are believed to be more than 5000 years old. Von Däniken and others believe them to be rather older (Photo by United Press International)*

## OF FREUD AND FRIENDS

Let me diverge for a moment and talk about Sigmund Freud. Freud was the first man of our time to apprise us of the subconscious and unconscious mind. Freud related the function of the latter to two simple forces: the *libido* (the life force) and the *mortido* (the death force). They were the basic interpretive elements in all of Freud's dream symbolism.

These simplictic beginnings paved the way for Carl Jung. One of Jung's most important contributions to psychological knowledge was the "archetype." The archetype is a symbol or figure or person, form, story that turns up over and over and over again in cultures, societies spread over the face of the entire planet.

On isolated islands and interconnected cultures, the same stories are told, the same pictures are drawn, the same dreams are dreamed. Jung felt that this was a symbol-forming activity of the mind that had its roots in what he called the "racial unconscious," a repository of knowledge that is not consciously accessible to us, but there in our minds just the same. It is rather like having a built-in encyclopedia.

By careful research and correlation, Jung whittled myths and dreams and stories down to a series of basics which, he concluded, were the processes that ruled all men and accounted for their normal and abnormal behavior. Among these archetypes is "the hero," "the king," "the mother," "the cross"—all very common and familiar.

Now enter the Behaviorists: men like B.F. Skinner. These men point out that much of our observable behavior is learned, and proceed to demonstrate à la Pavlov that we can be trained and habituated into doing almost anything.

So what does this have to do with Extraterrestrials? Nothing with them directly, but perhaps with our attitudes toward history and the admissability of certain evidence. Our early model of mankind is of a creature possessed entirely by and struggling with primitive drives. We next view ourselves as the product of complex myths and cautionary tales that sprang full-blown from our dreams. Now we are considering the possibility that we were formed and trained by some external agency: a Pavlov from Outer Space. It is likely that all of these factors are true and are still at work today, and that the latter notion of external control was at one time true—unless, of course, we are still being visited and controlled today, here and now.

## CHARIOTS—OR UFOS?

Von Däniken pubicly disavows belief in flying saucers. Interestingly enough, he sticks with what he feels is the empirical evidence for ancient astronauts, not modern ones. It is this strangely conservative streak that makes him a bit more convincing. He hasn't become a flying saucer fanatic that one can just turn off like a bad radio station.

Coincidentally, Jung did not believe in UFO's either. He felt that the flying saucer was a projection of man's inner need to replace the supernatural portion of religious teachings which had been robbed by modern materialism and science. Man, in Jung's view, found the notion of beings from outer space a comforting replacement for religion after the "death of God." Here was an immediate hope of some agency that could come in and solve all of our problems.

Whether we believe in flying saucers or not, there are some extremely interesting correlations between some of von Däniken's ancient astronauts and some of the modern ones that supposedly kidnap certain of our mortal kind from time to time and take us up in their spaceships. They wear spacesuits. They have extraordinary weapons and medical apparatuses. Most

curious, they all have the same strangely oriental facial characteristics that are portrayed in ancient drawings especially of Gods—even some of South American origin. The modern and ancient descriptions seem to match.

### THE SPACESHIPS OF EZEKIAL

Sticking for a moment with the flying saucer theme, one of the most popular examples of the von Däniken approach, though it didn't originate with him, is the story of Ezekial. It involves certain excerpts from the Biblical stories, of which the following are some examples:

### FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET EZEKIAL

1:4 As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north and a great cloud, with brightness round about it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming bronze.

1:5 And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the form of men.

1:13 In the midst of the living creatures there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches moving to and fro among the creatures; and the fire was bright; and out of fire went forth lightning.

1:15 Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel upon the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them.

1:16 As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of a Tarsis stone, and the four had the same likeness, their construction was as though one wheel were within another.

1:17 When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went.

1:24 And when they went, I heard the sound of their wings like the sound of many waters, like the thunder of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of a host; when they stood still, they let down their wings.

Ezekial serves as an excellent example of a type of description that occurs throughout the Bible. The narrator sees a whirlwind with fire and thunder come toward him, where it stops and communicates with him in some way. Moses, for example. Von Däniken cites Gilgamesh as containing similar scenes. The *Vedas* of India tell the same story, and they pre-date the Mosaic tradition by many centuries.

We are accustomed to interpreting this event in very symbolic terms: we usually regard it as a vision brought on by deprivation or drugs or heavenly influence. We feel that these whirlwinds were added for dramatic effect, or in the literalist tradition that God did indeed choose to manifest in this strange way.

*HELICOPTER—OR HEAVENLY VISITOR? What if you were a native of an uncharted island in the Pacific—and saw a sight like this? How would you describe it—to someone else who had never seen a helicopter? (Photo courtesy of United Press International.)*

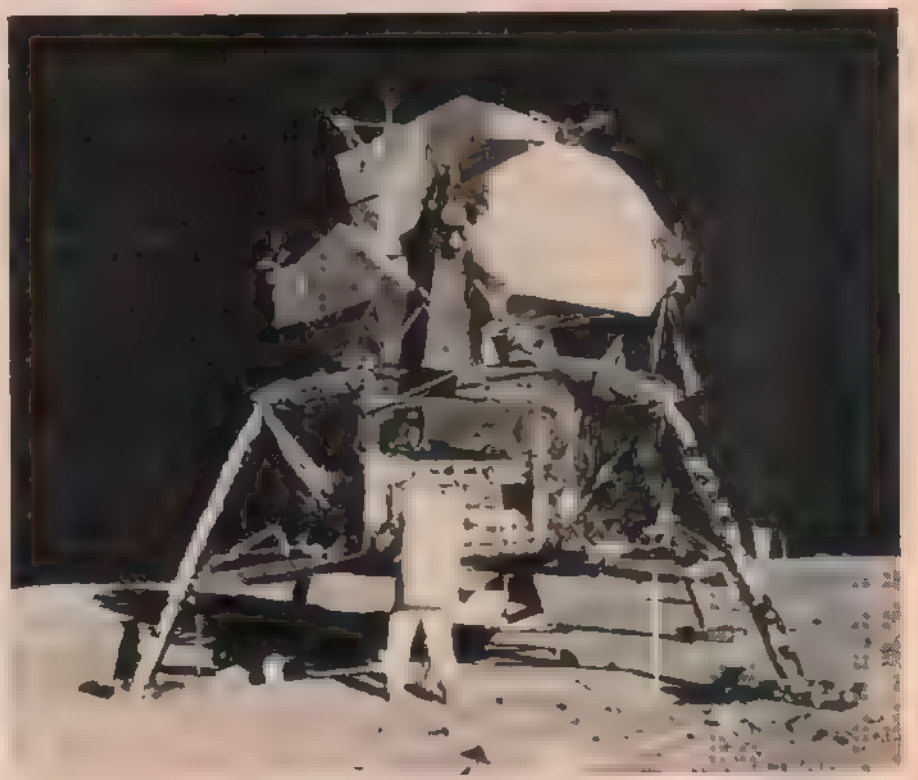
For the sake of argument, stop for a moment and set aside these preconceptions. Think of the last time that you were at an airport and saw a jet plane land, or a helicopter for that matter. At first you heard a sound like thunder, then you saw a gleaming silver object with sunlight flashing off its wings or rotors. As the plane got closer to you, you were blasted by the hot air and dust from the jet exhaust. Sound at all like the Biblical description? How would you describe a helicopter if you'd never seen one before? What *did* Ezekial really see?

### MACHINES—OR MAGIC?

In the lecture that von Däniken gives on his tour, there is an excellent demonstration of this principle. Among the slides shown is one of a completely unintelligible thingamabob that is undoubtedly the result of the marriage of a computer and a popcorn machine. The color slide is flashed on the screen for about 20 seconds, after which von Däniken says: "Now try to describe that to someone who hasn't seen it!"

And the truth is that you can't really describe it. It is an object of function unknown, one that lies en-

*(Continued on page 74)*



*A CHARIOT OF THE MOON-GODS? Astronaut Edwin E. Aldrin and the Lunar Module. But, to an Australian aborigine—a pair of frightening man-gods. (Photo courtesy of United Press International.)*

# Facts On "Dänikenitis"— The von Däniken Phenomenon

BOOKS

An estimated 25 million copies of Erich von Däniken's three books have been sold worldwide. Translations have appeared in some 32 foreign languages, including Chinese. Bantam editions of the first two books now total over six million copies in print.

CHARIOTS OF THE GODS?

1968 — original German edition published (Econ-Verlag).
1969 — first English translation published in England (Souvenir Press).
1970 — first American hardcover (G.P. Putman's Sons).
1971 (Feb.) — Bantam paperback publication with first printing of 207,000 copies.
1973 (Oct.) — Bantam books orders its 33rd printing, bringing the total number of copies in print to over 4,000,000 copies.

GODS FROM OUTER SPACE (formerly published as *Return to the Stars*)

1968 — original German edition published (Econ-Verlag).
1970 — English translation published in England (Souvenir Press).
1971 — American hardcover published (G.P. Putnam's Sons).
1972 (April) — Bantam paperback publication with first printing of 235,000 copies.
1973 (Sept. 5) — Bantam orders 23rd printing, bringing total number of copies in print to 2,190,000.

GOLD OF THE GODS

1973 — original German edition published (Econverlag). English translation published in England (Souvenir Press).
1973 — American hardcover publication (G.P. Putnam's Sons).
1974 (Fall) — Bantam paperback edition scheduled for publication.

MOTION PICTURE — "CHARIOTS OF THE GODS?"

In 1971, a German film company (Terra Filmkunst, Berlin) produced a 97-minute film, "Chariots of the Gods?", based on two of von Däniken's books, "Chariots of the Gods?" and "Gods from Outer Space." The film has been distributed throughout the world, setting box-office records in many places.

In the spring of 1972, it was released in Canada and became an overnight success.

In the summer of 1973, Sun International Productions, the leading four-wall motion picture distribution in the U.S., acquired U.S. theatrical distribution rights to the film. It will have its American premiere in Buffalo, New York, on November 14, 1973, and will be released to the rest of the country starting in January of 1974.

TELEVISION — "IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS"

In January of 1973, NBC-TV televised "In Search of Ancient Astronauts," an Alan Landsburg Production adaptions of the motion picture version of "Chariots of the Gods?" This TV version utilized only a third of the motion picture and whetted the public's appetite to see the uncut version of the feature in theatres.

Following the telecast, viewers besieged bookstores and brought a quarter of a million copies of "Chariots of the Gods?" within 48 hours.

A repeat telecast of "In Search of Ancient Astronauts" in September of 1973 resulted in sales of more than 350,000 copies of von Däniken's books in the next two days.

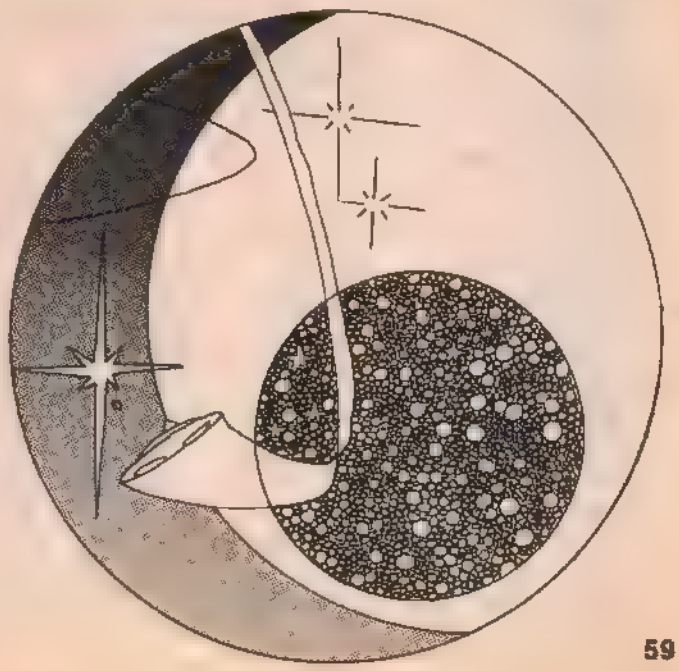
LECTURES

In the past two years, von Däniken has drawn standing-room only crowds wherever he has given lectures in Germany, England, Australia, and other countries.

He launched his first North American lecture tour in October of 1973 under the auspices of the Bantam Lecture Bureau, again repeating the "von Däniken phenomenon" of overwhelming public interest and attendance everywhere.

Johnny Carson snared him for his first American television guest appearance. Carson was so fascinated with von Däniken's controversial theories that he scheduled a return appearance two weeks later.

[*Information courtesy of Sun International Productions, Inc., producers of the film version of "Chariots of the Gods?"*]



# The Books

*by Ed Summer*

**Being a handy review, alphabetically arranged by authors' last names, of some of the outstanding books currently available on the "Chariots" thesis and related matters, both before and after von Däniken.**

**Blum, Ralph with Judy Blum, BEYOND EARTH: MAN'S CONTACT WITH UFO'S Bantam Books, T8374, $1.50, 248 pages, 1974, 32 pages of illustrations.**

A television special that was nipped in the bud when the network got cold feet at the last minute provided the impetus for this extremely well-documented overview of the current UFO situation. Beginning with the cold-war paranoia of the 1950's, Blum shows how the current government, military stance on flying saucers developed. Did you know, for example, that under current military law, any member of the armed forces who gives public information on UFO sightings is subject to a $10,000.00 fine? The book centers on the famous sighting at Pascagoula, Miss., on Oct. 11, 1973. Carefully researched, highly readable, sympathetic, but not fanatic.

**Blumrich, Josef. F., THE SPACESHIPS OF EZEKIEL, Bantam Books, Y8378, $1.25, 180 pages, 1974, illustrated.**

In an attempt to discredit von Daniken once and for all, a major N.A.S.A. engineer focused on the arguments that the Biblical prophet Ezekiel had really seen spaceships and spacemen, not visions. Since spaceships were his expertise, Blumrich felt that he had von Daniken over a barrel, until the evidence in favor of von Däniken's theory mounted up higher and higher. Blumrich found himself a true believer, and even patented the spaceship design that was derived from Ezekiel's descriptions! The book defines the thought processes that went into Blumrich's conclusions in a thoroughly scientific manner, complete with higher mathematical formulations for those who like to whip out their desk calculator at a moment's notice and check out the numbers.

*THE PASCAGOULA UFO'S Calvin Parker points a finger at the photographer as he and Charles Hickson (behind Parker) leave Jackson County Sheriff's office (Oct. 12, 1973) after being questioned about their alleged trip aboard a UFO. Hickson, 45, told officers that he and Parker were fishing from a wharf on the Pascagoula River when a spaceship landed only 40 feet away. (Photo courtesy of United Press International.)*

**Charroux, Robert, FORGOTTEN WORLDS, Popular Library, 445-00190-125, $1.25, 354 pages, 1973.**

Along with Andrew Tomas, Charroux is considered a French von Däniken (or is von Daniken a Swiss Charroux?). He is, however, less given to outbursts of unscientific enthusiasm, and for the most part documents his beliefs and researches in a satisfactory manner. The book is one of those "thought-provoker" types that covers a vast array of subjects from Spaceships to "Secrets of the Vatican." In between, Charroux makes a terrific case for the existence of prior high civilizations. It is difficult to ingore the vast number of inconsistencies in our present version of history. I'd suggest getting the Walker & Company hard-bound edition instead of the paperback. The latter has rather annoyingly left all the references to illustrations in the text, but somehow forgotten to print the illustrations.

**Dione, R.L., GOD DRIVES A FLYING SAUCER, Bantam Books, Q7733, $1.25, 132 pages, 1973.**

If an eighteenth-century missionary to the Canary Islands had decided to convert the natives to belief in extraterrestrials, this book would have served him well. It is full of all kinds of terrific mumbo-jumbo with just enough pseudo-scientific sentences thrown in to give it that "air-of-reality." I suppose it's only fair to admit that I'm very suspicious of used-car salesmen and street corner vendors, but they have a certain fascination if only for their almost supernatural glibness. It's all there, right here in this book, folks.

**Downing, Barry H., THE BIBLE & FLYING SAUCERS, Avon 17319, 95ff, 191 pages, 1970.**

Barry Downing, a Presbyterian pastor, has written one of the very best books on the topic of religion and extraterrestrialism, bar none. His reasoning is careful and logical. I kept finding myself saying, "Ah ha! I've found a hole in the argument!"—only to have Downing neatly fill it in in the next sentence. There is a unique blend of Theology, Metaphysics, and Science with just enough intriguing speculation to hold them together and make the reading fun. This book may well turn out to be extremely important in the history of the ideas that it presents: Downing has tactfully and convincingly bridged the Dark Ages of Religion to the dawn of the new Religious-Scientific Era.

**Drake, W. Raymond, GODS AND SPACEMENT IN THE ANCIENT EAST, Signet 451-W5737, $1.50, 247 pages, 1973**

From myths, fairy tales, legends and folk stories of Europe and the East, Drake has assembled a scholarly

# Of The Gods

argument for the evidence of extraterrestrial visits to the earth in pre-historic and historic times. Carl Jung utilized a similar method to establish the existence of the Universal Unconscious and the Archetype. Books like this one may show that the Universal Unconscious may, in fact, have been inspired by real flesh and blood spacemen and not by the dream work of our minds. The relevant quotes are carefully footnoted (nearly 300 source books were used) and fun to read. Did you know that Charlemagne's troops were rescued by "flaming shields from the skies"?

**Fort, Charles, THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED, Ace Star 07061, 75ff, 287 pages, 1919, 1941.**

Charles Fort was the Great-Grandaddy of all the modern flying saucer broo-ha-ha. "By the damned, I mean what science has excluded," said Mr. Fort. His book is not easy to read, because it is very, very careful. Fort's methodology is hard to fault: he is painstakingly exhaustive, and never draws any conclusions. His basic premise is to look at something that doesn't quite fit in and to say "Isn't *that* interesting!" And it is interesting, but not in the modern spectacular, sensational way that von Däniken is. Fort kind of creeps up on you. The most valuable thing he has to offer is a way and a method of looking at things, a manner that is scientific and at the time humorously self-critical. In fact, the humor redeems the whole thing. I suspect that "we moderns" take the whole thing rather too seriously and frighten off non-believers. Well, you can rant and you can rave about what Charles Fort had to say, pro or con; then suddenly in your mind's eye you'll see Fort sitting at his desk with a twinkle in his eye and a knowing grin, very satisfied that he really got you hooked with that one little tidbit that you just can't explain away.

**Fuller, John G., THE INTERRUPTED JOURNEY, Berkley Medallion, 452-02572-125, $1.25, 350 pages, 1974, 8 pages of illustrations.**

Just try and shrug this one off. Either it represents the most detailed flying saucer hoax of all times, a spectacular delusion, or it really happened. Were, indeed, a husband and wife taken up into a UFO and examined by a group of unidentified beings, or were they suffering from hallucinations? If they made up the whole story, John Fuller has done a helluva job covering up the mistakes, because I didn't catch a one. Try it on for size.

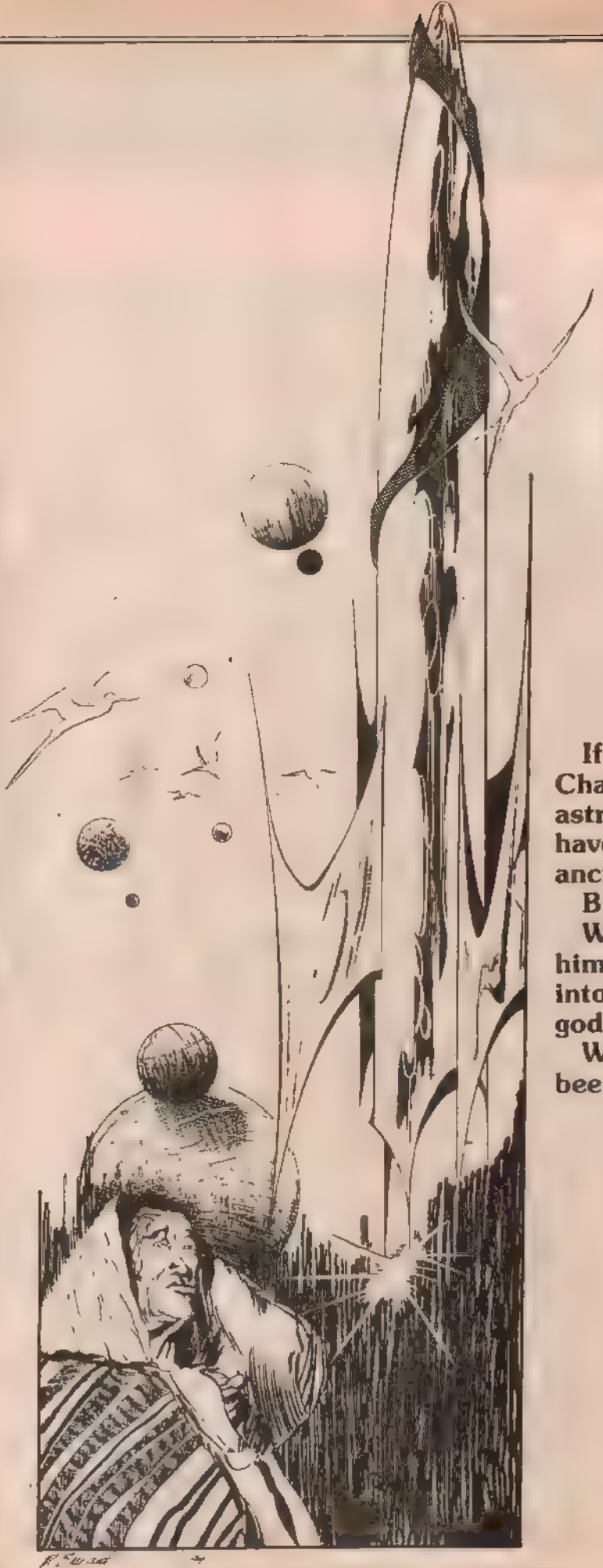
**Landsburg, Alan and Sally, IN SEARCH OF ANCIENT MYSTERIES, Bantam, T8376, $1.50, 197 pages, 1974, 32 pages of photographs. Introduction by Rod Serling.**

While in search of the subject matter for an NBC-TV Special, the Landsburgs found themselves faced with that mountain of evidence that has been staring us all in the face far longer than science would care to admit. This personal and personable story of their "conversion" to the new view of history and extraterrestrials makes an excellent, easy-to-read introduction to the whole field.

**Spencer, John Wallace, LIMBO OF THE LOST, Bantam, T8243, $1.50, 136 pages, 1973, 16 pages of illustrations.**

This book makes me feel very ambivalent. On one hand Spencer has collected a goodly number of strange incidents that occurred in the "Bermuda Triangle," that perplexing phenomena of unexplained disappearances of boats, planes, people since time immemorial. He tells all his stories carefully, to the point of dry detail. On the other hand, there is no viewpoint to the book, except the last 3 pages wherein the author, interviewed by the publisher, raises the spectre of flying saucers. I suspect that somehow this is very objective, but it also feels like the kind of argument that says "This is a strawberry ice cream cone, and this is a chocolate ice cream cone, and this is a vanilla ice cream cone, and from all these ice cream cones we can conclude that dinosaur eggs are blue." I would recommend this book to the already converted as an excellent source book.

*(Continued on page 80)*



**If the theories of Von Däniken, Charroux, and others are true, then astronauts from beyond the stars have seemed as gods to our ancient ancestors.**

**But what of the *future?***

**What will happen when man himself takes another giant step into the black void, to walk as a god among the stars?**

**Will he find, perhaps, that he had been better off to stay at home...?**

# GOOD LORD!

"Good Lord!" is cheerfully dedicated to Bill, Wally, and a couple of Al's— for a whole bunch of great hours of reading. Thanks, fellas.

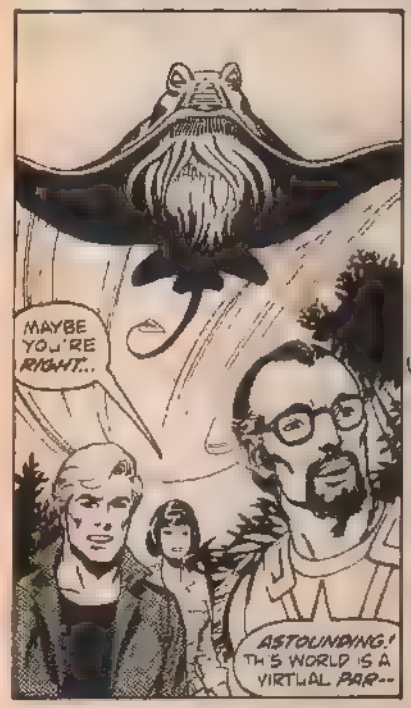
BOB! BOB! I TWISTED MY ANKLE ...CAN'T RUN! HELP ME... GOD, HELP ME!
CAN'T TAKE THE TIME, COLIN--THOUGH I WISH TO THE GOOD LORD I COULD!
BUT IF I SAVED YOU, THERE'S NO ASSURANCE I'D MAKE IT.
SO LONG, BUDDY...

Script MARV WOLFMAN Art DAVE COCKRUM and [illegible]

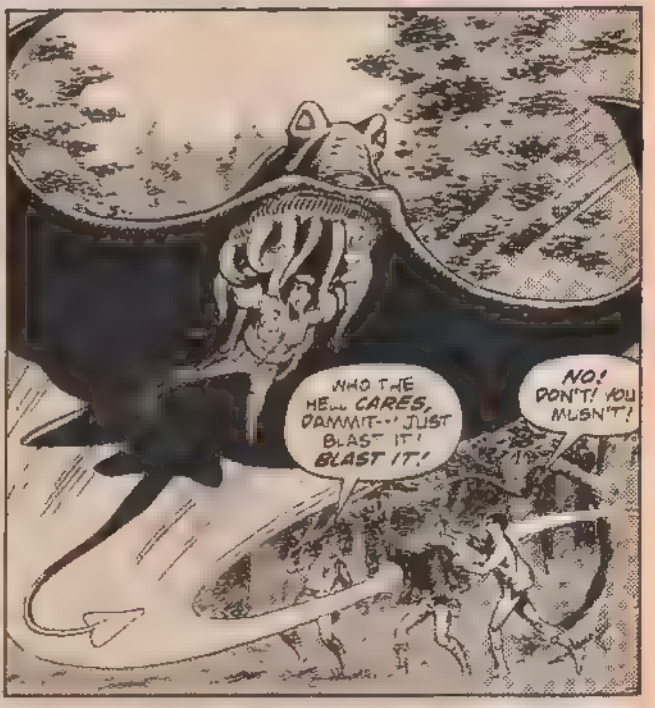
THE HELL WITH YOU, WILSON--YOU FIRE UNTIL I ORDER YOU TO STOP!
IT'S NO USE... WE CAN'T STOP IT...DAMN IT, WE CAN'T!
YOU'RE NOT BEING FAIR, BOB IT ISN'T WILSON'S FAULT THOSE MEN DIED.
ISN'T IT, JOAN? HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THE GOOD DOCTOR'S CRAZY IDEAS GOT US IN THIS STINKING PREDICAMENT IN THE FIRST PLACE?
BLAST! THAT'S FOUR OF US DEAD IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS. HOW LONG IS THIS IDIOTIC RESEARCH GOING ON, WILSON?
HE'S THE ONE TRYING TO PROVE THAT ANCIENT CONCEPT THAT THERE ACTUALLY IS A SUPREME BEING... A GOD WHO CREATED EVERY LIVING FIBRE IN THE UNIVERSE
I WON'T ARGUE WITH YOU, KING. YOUR JOB IS TO PILOT THIS SHIP, AND I'VE PAID YOU WELL.

I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO GIVE MY VIEWS, THEN, DOCTOR? WELL, I'VE GOT OPINIONS, AND I'M NOT AFRAID OF EXPRESSING THEM.
IF THERE IS A GOD... IF THERE IS ONE CREATOR, THEN TELL ME, GREAT DOCTOR, WHY THE HELL WOULD HE CREATE A MONSTER LIKE THE ONE WHO KILLED COLIN?
BECAUSE THERE MUST ALWAYS BE PREDATORS, AS THERE MUST ALWAYS BE VICTIMS.
I MERELY STATE THERE IS A GOD--I DON'T SAY THERE IS A JUST ONE.
BOB! DR. WILSON--LOOK AHEAD OF US... AT THAT PLANET.
IT DEFIES ALL DESCRIPTION... ALL POSSIBLE SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATIONS!
SENSORS SAY THERE IS NOTHING THERE, YET, LOOK--LOOK! THERE IS A PLANET AHEAD OF US
GOOD LORD! IT IS THERE... I CAN SEE IT!
BRING IT DOWN SLOWLY, JEFF.
IF IT ISN'T AN ILLUSION, I WANT TO BE ABLE TO LAND.
AS FOR YOU, GOOD DOCTOR, WE'LL RESUME OUR DISCUSSION SOME OTHER TIME.
YOU STRAP YOURSELF INTO PLACE ON YOUR COUCH-LIKE MATTRESS, AND SLOWLY YOU FEEL GRAVITY TAKE HOLD OF YOU... CONTORT YOUR FACE... PULL IT RIGHT UNTIL YOU CAN STAND IT NO MORE! THERE IS A MOMENT OF ICE-COLD PEACE FLOODING OVER YOU, AND THEN
ATMOSPHERE PERFECT WE WON'T NEED OUR SUITS, BOB. TEMPERATURE IS A NICE WARM EIGHTY-TWO.
THEN THERE'S NOTHING TO KEEP US COOPED-UP IN HERE, IS THERE? LET'S GO, MEN!
IT'S BEAUTIFUL... I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS PLACE BEFORE...
...NEVER SMELLED ANYTHING AS SWEET AS THIS AIR... IT'S LIKE A WARM PERFUME.
IT'S PERFECT... TOO PERFECT. I DON'T LIKE IT.
SO HELP ME, IF YOU SAY ONE WORD ABOUT FEMININE INTUITION...!

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT, BOB--BUT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PLACE I DON'T LIKE--SOMETHING I CAN'T EXPLAIN.
YOU'VE BEEN COOPED-UP IN SPACE TOO LONG WITH GRUMBLERS, JOAN.
..THE FRESH AIR IS MAKING YOU OXYGEN-DRUNK
STOP COMPLAINING AND ENJOY

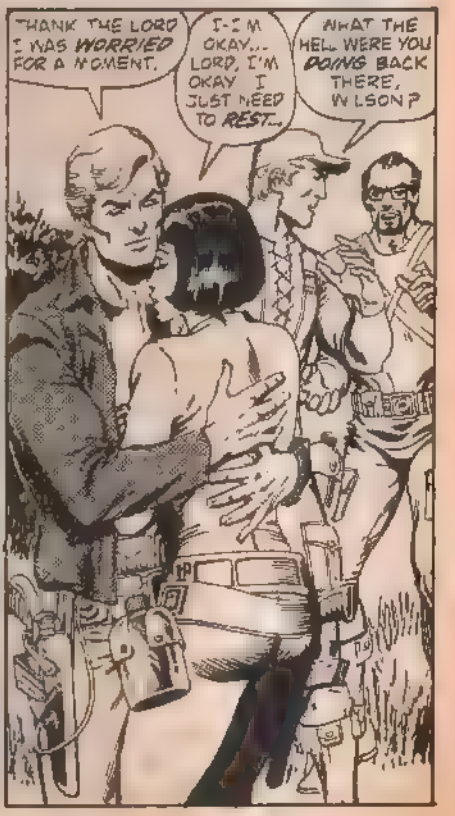

MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT...
ASTOUNDING! THIS WORLD IS A VIRTUAL PAR--

BOB!!!
GOOD LORD! WHAT'S THAT??


WHO THE HE... CARES, DAMMIT--! JUST BLAST IT! BLAST IT!
NO! DON'T! YOU MUSN'T!

DAMN IT, WILSON--DON'T GET IN MY WAY, OR SO HELP ME YOU'LL GET THE NEXT BLAST.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, FOOL.. THAT'S A LIFE-FORM...AN INTELLIGENT CREATURE. YOU CAN'T--
DON'T DARE TELL ME WHAT I CAN DO, WILSON ...JUST DON'T DARE!
IT'S WORKING! JOAN'S FALLING FREE

GOD..IF SHE'S BEEN HURT--!

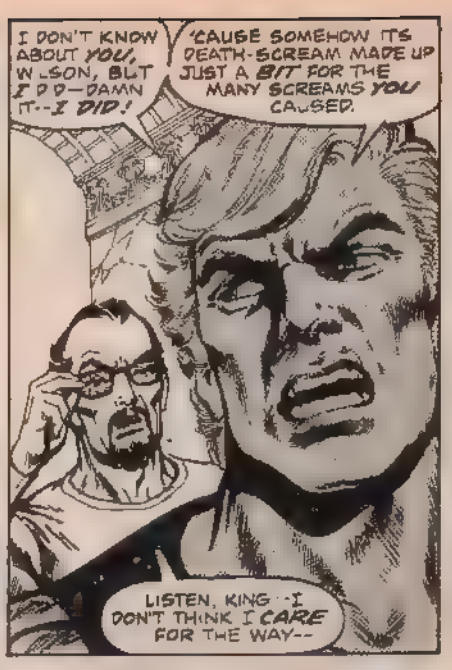

THANK THE LORD I WAS WORRIED FOR A MOMENT.
I--I'M OKAY... LORD, I'M OKAY I JUST NEED TO REST..
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING BACK THERE, WILSON?

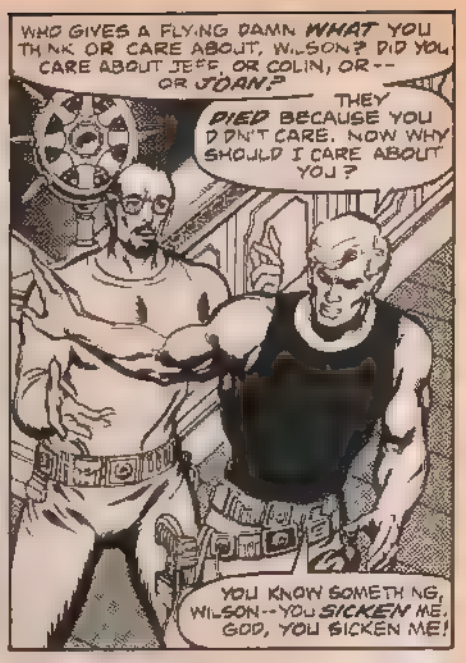
FORGET IT, CHAMBERS--YOU'D NEVER UNDERSTAND.
MORE OF YOUR "DIVINE RIGHT OF MURDER," WILSON?
WELL, FORGET IT. AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, IF SOMETHING ATTACKS ME--IT LOSES ITS RIGHT TO LIVE!
HEY! C'MON OVER HERE--TAKE A GANDER OVER THERE!
GOOD LORD! IT'S A CITY!
PRETTY DAMNED ADVANCED, IF I'M ANY JUDGE OF ARCHITECTURE!
JEFF, INFLATE THE RAFT. I WANT A CLOSER LOOK.
IF THERE'S A CITY HERE, THAT MEANS THERE MAY BE 'NTELLIGENT LIFE.
AND IF THERE IS LIFE, I WANT TO MEET 'EM FACE-TO-FACE...
...AND BLOW THAT DAMNED GOD-THEORY OF YOURS TO BITS, WILSON
THE BIBLE SAYS GOD MADE US IN HIS OWN IMAGE. IF THAT'S TRUE, HE PROBABLY MADE ALL HIS INTELLIGENT CREATIONS THE SAME WAY.
WE'LL SOON SEE IF THAT'S THE CASE...
..OR IF IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF EVOLUTION!
Suddenly
GOOD LORD! LOOK!
DIVE, DAMN YOU ALL--DIVE!
IT'S GOT ME...BOB--IT'S GOT ME!
HEELLLPPP!!!
HANG ON, BUDDY--HANG ON! MAYBE MY BLASTER WILL FREE YOU AS IT DID JOAN!
IT'S CRUSHING ME...KILLING ME!!!
AAARRRGGHHH!!!
OH NO! IT'S RIPPED JEFF APART! NO!
DIE, DAMN YOU! FOR GOD'S SAKE--DIE!
STOP IT, KING! YOU CAN'T MURDER IT! YOU MUSTN'T!
SHOVE IT, WILSON! SHOVE IT RIGHT NOW!

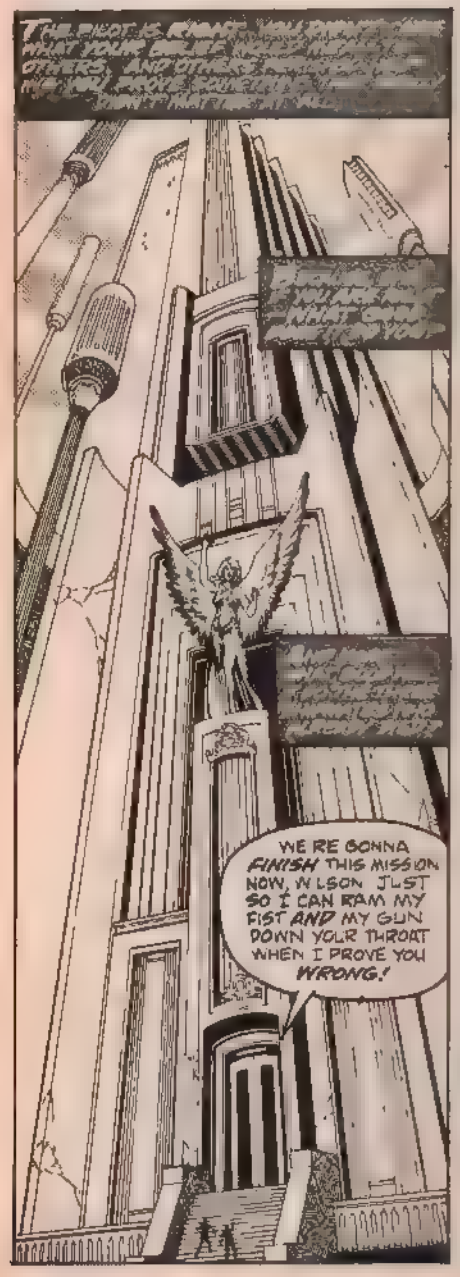
TENTACLED, PULSING WITH A THOUSAND ANULETS OF BLOOD--
YOUR FRAGILE RAFT...
GONE! DAMN BEAST'S FLED!
SO MUCH FOR YOUR SO-CALLED PARADISE, WILSON.
'CAUSE IF THERE'S ANY PLACE THAT BORDERS ON HELL, THIS HAS GOT TO BE IT.
CAN'T WE STOP ARGUING, BOB? IF WE WANT TO SURVIVE, WE MUST WORK TOGETHER.
TELL THAT TO THE MANIAC, JOAN--HE'S THE ONE WHO'S BEEN FIGHTING US--HE'S THE ONE WHOSE HALF-BAKED IDEAS LOST OUR CREW!
LOOK AHEAD OF US, KING--AND WE'LL SEE WHO THE MANIAC REALLY IS!

I-I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD CONTINUE, YET--
WE OUGHT TO SEND OUT A REPORT! BUDDY FIRST--LET THE EARTH KNOW WHAT WE FOUND.
I AGREE WITH JOAN.
GOOD FOR YOU, WILSON--NOW TAKE THAT AGREEMENT AND STUFF IT SIDEWAYS.
WE'RE GOING IN--AND THAT MEANS THE THREE OF US--
--EVEN IF I HAVE TO DRAG YOU WITH ME
BUT--!
TOO LATE FOR THAT, JOAN WE'RE MOVING IN.
YOUR FINGERS TOUCH THE
WE STICK TOGETHER FOR THIS I WON'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF YOU TWO TAKING OFF.
INDEED, THIS CELESTIAL
AARRGH!
JOAN!
OUT OF MY WAY, WILSON! I'M GOING TO KILL THAT DAMN BEAST!
IT'S TOO LATE, KING! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO!
I COULD HAVE SAVED HER, DAMN YOU! BUT SHE DIED!
BECAUSE OF YOU! ALL BECAUSE OF YOU!!
I'M NOT DONE WITH YOU YET, WILSON--BUT I WANT YOU TO WATCH ME...
...WATCH ME DESTROY THIS GOD-DAMNED BEAST OF YOURS.
WATCH ME DESTROY IT JUST THE WAY IT DESTROYED JOAN!

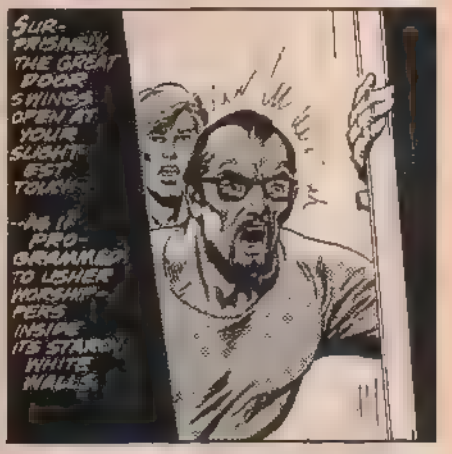
DID YOU SEE THAT, WILSON? DID YOU ENJOY WATCHING TS FLESH SIZZLE, ITS SKIN BOIL?
DID YOU GET YOUR KICKS WATCHING IT MELT OVER ITSELF?


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, WILSON, BUT I DID--DAMN IT--I DID!
'CAUSE SOMEHOW ITS DEATH-SCREAM MADE UP JUST A BIT FOR THE MANY SCREAMS YOU CAUSED.
LISTEN, KING--I DON'T THINK I CARE FOR THE WAY--


WHO GIVES A FLYING DAMN WHAT YOU THINK OR CARE ABOUT, WILSON? DID YOU CARE ABOUT JEFF, OR COLIN, OR-- OR JOAN?
THEY DIED BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T CARE. NOW WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT YOU?
YOU KNOW SOMETHING, WILSON--YOU SICKEN ME. GOD, YOU SICKEN ME!


WE'RE GONNA FINISH THIS MISSION NOW, WILSON JUST SO I CAN RAM MY FIST AND MY GUN DOWN YOUR THROAT WHEN I PROVE YOU WRONG!

I'VE ALREADY CONCEDED, KING. MUST WE GO THROUGH ALL THIS?
MOVE IT, WILSON--INSIDE!
NOT ONLY MUST WE--YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT, WILSON. BELIEVE ME ON THAT!

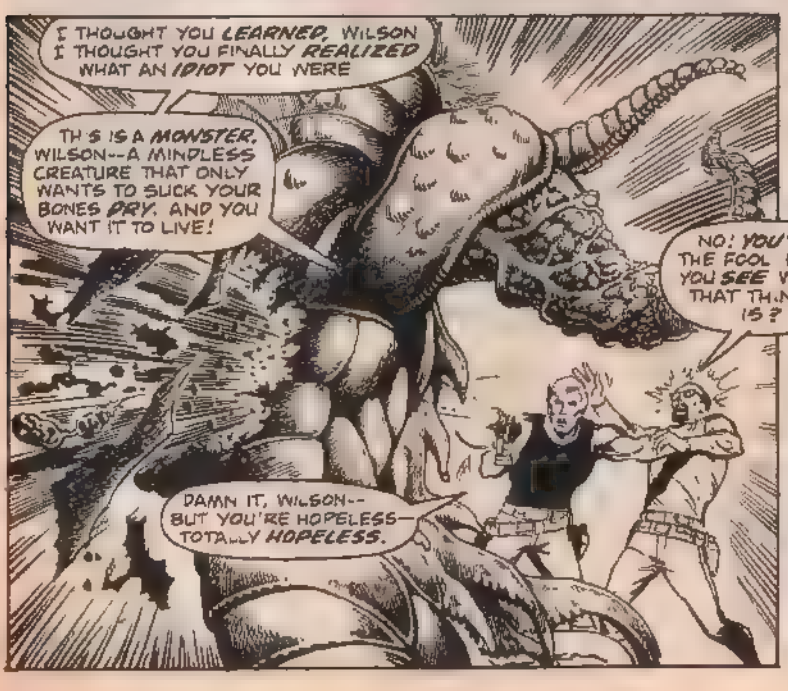

SURPRISINGLY, THE GREAT DOOR SWINGS OPEN AT YOUR SLIGHTEST TOUCH--
--AS IF PROGRAMMED TO USHER WORSHIPPERS INSIDE ITS STARKLY WHITE WALLS.

GOOD LORD! WHAT IS THIS PLACE?
A HALLWAY OF SOME SORTS--MAYBE THE ENTRANCEWAY TO A MUSEUM.
BUT THESE STATUES--SO INCREDIBLY ALIEN, AND YET--
--FAMILIAR.

THEN IT WAS TRUE--ALL OF IT.
THEY SAY MOSES'S BODY WAS NEVER FOUND WHEN HE DIED--
--THAT JESUS WOULD RISE FROM HIS GRAVE AND RETURN IN SOME FUTURE YEAR
BUT THEY'RE ALL HERE --ALL OF THEM ALL THESE GODS--

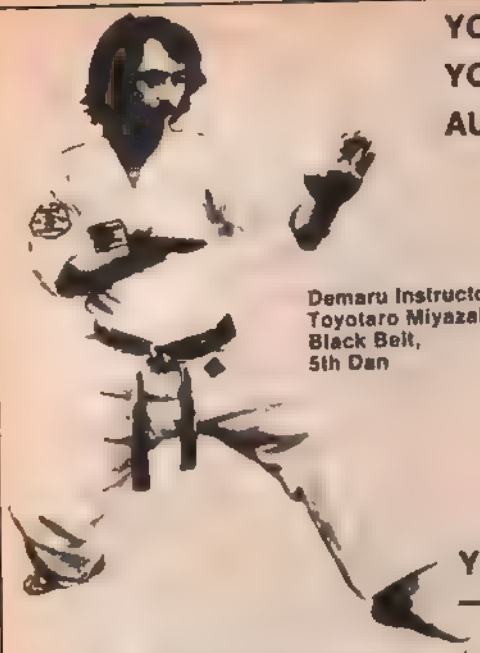
ANOTHER CREATURE! IT WAS WAITING HERE ALL THE TIME!
THIS DAMNED PLANET'S FULL OF THEM

WELL, THIS ONE'S NOT GETTING THE CHANCE TO KILL US.
NO! YOU MUSTN'T! YOU MUSTN'T!


I THOUGHT YOU LEARNED, WILSON I THOUGHT YOU FINALLY REALIZED WHAT AN IDIOT YOU WERE
THIS IS A MONSTER, WILSON--A MINDLESS CREATURE THAT ONLY WANTS TO SUCK YOUR BONES DRY. AND YOU WANT IT TO LIVE!
NO! YOU'RE THE FOOL DON'T YOU SEE WHAT THAT THING IS?
DAMN IT, WILSON-- BUT YOU'RE HOPELESS— TOTALLY HOPELESS.

YEAH--I SEE IT--I SEE A MONSTER THAT WANTED TO SLAY US--
--AND I SEE THAT I KILLED IT BEFORE IT GOT THE CHANCE.

THEN YOU DON'T SEE -- YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND.
LOOK AT THE THING, KING -- SEE THAT BLACK LIQUID OOZING FROM IT!
THAT ISN'T BLOOD, KING -- THAT ISN'T BLOOD!
THAT'S DEATH -- THE TOTAL EMBODIMENT OF ALL DEATH!
WATCH THIS, KING -- LOOK WHAT IT DOES TO MY HAND! LOOK!
OH MY GOD! IT'S DISSOLVED YOUR HAND FLESH BLOOD, BONE AND ALL!
AND IT'S NOT GOING TO STOP AT THAT, KING!
THIS BLACKNESS IS GOING TO SPREAD ALL ACROSS THE UNIVERSE... ALL OVER EVERY EXISTING WORLD --
AND EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE DESTROYED AS EASILY AS MY HAND
ALL BECAUSE OF YOU! ALL BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T BELIEVE -- YOU DIDN'T UNDERSTAND!
THIS ISN'T A MUSEUM -- THIS IS A TEMPLE -- A CHURCH! AND IT HONORS ITS ANGELS WHO CAME FROM HERE - WHO WERE SENT TO OTHER WORLDS TO TEACH THEM THE WAYS OF THEIR LORD AND MASTER
THOSE STATUES IN THE HALLWAY WERE THE ANGELS, KING --
--AND YOU'VE DESTROYED THEM ALL
YOU SEE, KING -- I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG -- THERE IS A GOD --!
--AND YOU'VE KILLED HIM!!
GOOD LORD!
CHOKE!
AND EVERYWHERE SAW THE DARKNESS AND KNEW THAT IT WAS GOD
FIN



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# Chariots

(Continued from page 58)

tirely outside our everyday experience. It might be possible to describe bits and pieces of the thing. The parts that look similar to paraphernalia that we have seen before can be explained in isolation. But the totality is mindboggling: an automated belly-button tickler, perhaps.

After the "mystery slide," we see one of the Lunar Landing Vehicle (LEM) from the Apollo series. Suddenly, it looks completely different, as though we are looking through the eyes of an Australian aborigine.

The first white man we have ever seen in our lives, dressed in khaki and pith helmet, has hauled a Butane cigarette lighter out of his pocket and produced flames. Magic! The white god makes fire from his fingers! We would see an effect that we could identify with our past experience, but the cause would be so far beyond our scientific savvy that it would be explainable only in terms of magic. As Arthur Clarke would say, technology to the uninitiated must appear supernatural.

## MANNA FROM ON HIGH

There exist even today what are called "Cargo Cults." Groups of isolated native tribes saw—for the first times in their lives—cargo planes that landed, unloaded boxes of food and supplies from their bellies, then took off with their pilots and disappeared into the sky.

These natives were so overwhelmed by this event that the experience became the basis of a new religion and ritual. They constructed bamboo models of the airplanes and cleared areas of the jungle into replicas of the landing strip on which they originally saw the planes come down. They evolved elaborate and ornate rituals which center on spending a major portion of their day sitting by their runway waiting and praying for a cargo plane to land and bring them the benefits of what to them are the "gods"!

There is nothing silly or comic about this. It is quite as important to them as going to church is for some of us, if not more important. It is probably done with much more emotion and sincerity than we are able to generate, because these natives have actually had their religious experience of the "gods" at first hand: they saw them land and fly away with their own eyes.

Picture Ezekial out in the desert with some strange thingy zooming at him, making a tremendous roar. For the sake of simplicity, let's say it's a simple, everyday helicopter. How is a man who has never seen anything more awesome than a crosseyed camel going to describe a helicopter? The noise—thunder. The wind from the rotors—a whirlwind. Flashes of sunlight—lightning. All things out of Ezekial's everyday experiences, but caused by something incomprehensible.

Josef F. Blumrich, a N.A.S.A. scientist, set out to disprove von Däniken's assertions, believing like many other serious researchers that von Däniken was talking nonsense and was just an exhibitionist. Blumrich ended up completely convinced of almost all von Däniken's contentions about Ezekial. In fact, he pieced together a completely probable and functional design for a space vehicle that matches point for point what Ezekial appears to have described. His book *The Spaceships of Ezekial* documents the whole thing in a very scientific manner. Blumrich even obtained a patent on what was suggested by the "wheel within a wheel" passage.

## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO US?

There are many more aspects to the whole question: The plain of Nazca. The Pyramids. The strange flying vehicles of India. But these are only aspects, evidence for the contention that we were visited at some time and affected in some way by extraterrestrials.

In the broadest sense, we must regard such a hypothesis as pure research. The practical applications are not near at hand until there is definite proof.

The implications are clear and important: we could discover facts about our evolutionary, physical origins; the origins of our ethical, moral, and spiritual beliefs; the question of the unity of the diverse races of man would be settled once and for all; the scientific doors opened would be staggering; and perhaps we would be able to make contact with whoever or whatever these entities are or were.

It is argued that even if von Däniken's theory is true, we won't know where and how his spacemen originated. But this is a *reducto ad absurdum* argument. Almost like saying that even if we eat right, stay healthy, and take our vitamins we will still die someday. True, but it misses the point of discovery, it misses the very nature of our lives themselves.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF VON DÄNIKEN

Regardless of von Däniken's motives, and in spite of his ofttimes horrendous scholarship, he has raised an issue that is not simply being ignored. Even if it is disproved once and for all, which doesn't seem in the immediate offing, there will be a speculation settled once and for all.

After all, the essence of the scientific method is to propose a hypothesis and then attempt to find everything in the world that will disprove it. When one has run out of negatives that apply to the hypothesis, when the grain of truth has been reached, then and only then can be stated a *theory*. And much, much later, with more testing, we can arrive at what we hopefully call '*facts*.' These facts and truths may not be what von Däniken would like them to be. On the other hand, orthodox science may not be terribly happy about them. The important thing is that the issues be probed in an honest, forthright, and painstaking manner, no matter whose pet ideas get trampled in the process.

We may not be able to see the immediate importance of the whole inquiry right away, but there is no question about any such investigation helping to clear the fog around the tiny clearing in which we live. Von Däniken has opened a public dialogue of inestimable importance.

Oysters, as we well know, sometimes produce pearls. We have even learned that what causes a pearl is a grain of sand or a tiny splinter of shell or dirt. Something that irritates the oyster. To protect its tender flesh, the oyster secretes a fluid that coats the sharp speck. If left alone long enough, this coating process forms a pearl.

It remains to be seen whether the irritation provided by Mr. von Däniken's writings will result in an interesting but tiny and unsuccessful pearl in the annals of crackpots in science—or whether he will provoke a large, shiny pearl that will hang among the great archaeological discoveries of all times.

FIN

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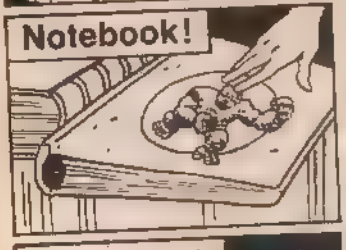


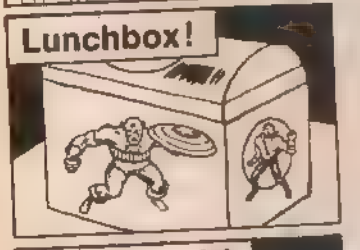


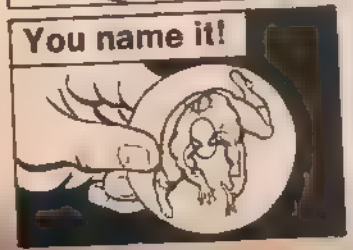


Now, for the first time, you can get your favorite Marvel-heroes — **Spiderman, Hulk, Captain America, Thing, Ironman, Powerman, Thor, Daredevil, and Conan** — all in full color **in one package!**

Eighteen fantastic stick-ons that you peel off and stick on any flat surface in seconds!

**Giant** stick-ons for walls and doors — **mediums** for notebooks and lockers — **"peewees"** for bikes, trikes and stationery! And all eighteen are yours for just $2.50 plus 35¢ postage. (Order two sets for $5.00 and save 70¢!) Best yet, you get **your money back** if you're not completely satisfied. Mail the coupon today, and we'll ship this fabulous set immediately.

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Our Way Studios
Box 174, Grand Central Station
New York, N.Y. 10017

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**New York, N.Y. 10017**

Please send me the Marvel-Hero Stick-ons.
_ One set — $2.50 plus 35¢ post. & handling.
_ Two sets — $4.50 plus 50¢ post. & handling.
_ _____ Additional sets — $2.25 each.
Enclosed is cash, check or M.O. for _____

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Name _____

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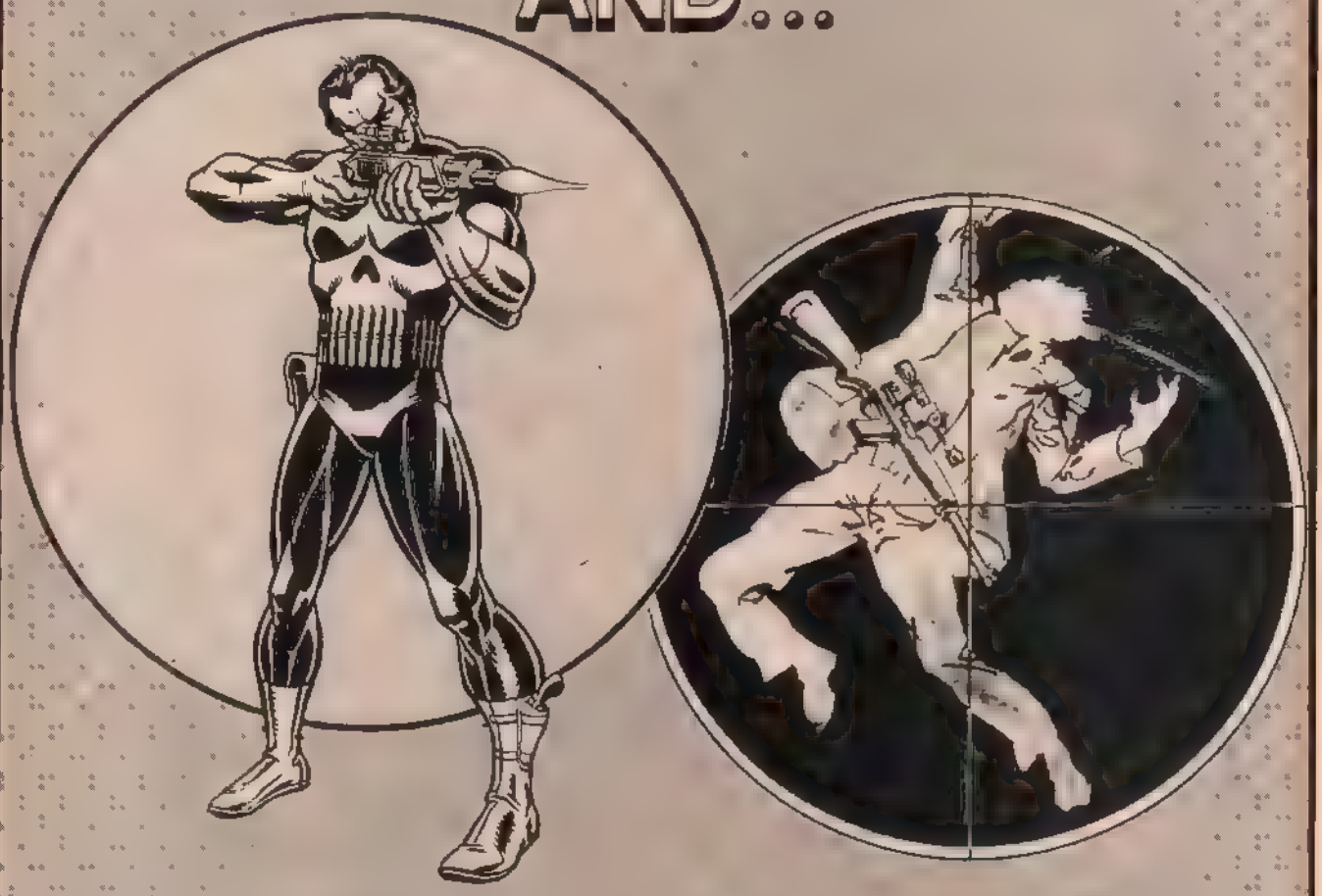
# HE'S GOT HIS SIGHTS AIMED AT YOU! AND...



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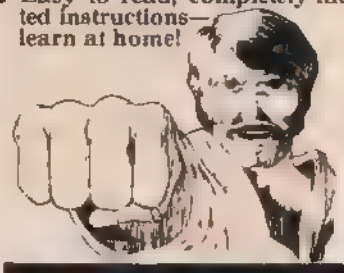

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*THE SPHINX AND THE GIZA PYRAMID: Two mysteries which have plagued man since time out of man Is the "Chariots" theory the answer to an age-old puzzle? (Photo courtesy of United Press International)*

*(Continued from page 61)*

**Tomas, Andrew, THE HOME OF THE GODS, Berkley Medallion, 425-02564-125, $1.25, 1974, 8 pages of photographs, 155 pages.**

This book shook me up because it was as though someone had written down what I had been thinking. It was the first time that I have read a calm and convincing statement on the possibilities of the existence of Atlantis and other early civilizations that had reached a highly advanced state. Somehow, liberal as I consider my positions on such matters, I had always relegated Atlantis to the realm of George Pal movies and that was that. But as I plowed through book after book that spoke about the startling scientific wonders that date into what we myopically term "prehistory," I had begun to piece together a picture of the world 10,000 years ago: It was done as a sort of intellectual exercise, a game. How many myths can be explained when we accept Atlantis as a fact? Why do so many diverse cultures have a deluge myth? Maybe we were visited by extraterrestrials, but in times so remote as to really shake up our archaeologists.

Tomas put it all neatly down in his book, the second he has written in the field (*We Are Not the First* was the first). Like Charroux he is more prone to understatement than von Daniken, which makes his arguments more compelling to me. Tomas also advances the "Time-Capsule" theory, that somewhere, or in many places on the earth, early scientific cultures or spacemen have buried time capsules containing messages to the peoples of future times (*us*, that is, if we find them) and perhaps great revelations that will enlighten and advance us further. Is there one beneath the Great Pyramid in Egypt? It seems that the pyramid wasn't a tomb after all: no bodies or indications of burials have ever been found. So what the heck were the pyramids built for me in the first place? This Tomas tome is a great mind-stretcher.

**Tomas, Andrew, WE ARE NOT THE FIRST, Bantam, Q7534, $1.25, 180 pages, 1973, 16 pages of photographs.**

The predecessor of HOME OF THE GODS shades in Tomas's theories on a myth level with a very strong emphasis on extraterrestrialism. Good background for his second book and a highly satisfactory general introduction to the field.

**Trench, Brinsley Le Poor, TEMPLE OF THE STARS, Ballantine, 23832, $1.50, 223 pages, 8 pages of photographs, 1974.**

Originally published in 1962, this book takes a novel line of proof and evidence. Astrology. Interestingly, Trench's hypothesis fits into the Atlantis Mythos. He feels that the Atlanteans settled in England, and that many of the visible-only-from-the-air figures such as the Uffington White Horse were produced by them to commemorate their extraterrestrial ancestors. While there is a certain tone of mystical mumbo-jumbo to all of this, the correlations of Dragon figures with the constellation Draco as a possible origin for our visitors from space is very interesting because it links up with other theories and begins to give credence to some of the staggeringly early dates given to these civilizations. (Draco was our pole star some 12,000 years ago, and it seems that a great many astronomical observatories were built to line up with Draco, including the Great Pyramid; all of which puts a kink into conventional dating systems.)

**Von Däniken, Erich, CHARIOTS OF THE GODS?, Bantam, Q5753, $1.25, 163 pages, 1971, 16 pages of illustrations.**

An equal mixture of science, yellow journalism, screaming, cajoling, and silliness adding up to a total of 400 per cent or even 500 per cent, this is the book that did the trick. I'm holding in my hand the 31st edition in two years, and that, in itself, is pretty remarkable. *Chariots* was von Daniken's initial statement and if nothing else made people sit up and take notice.

**Von Däniken, Erich, GODS FROM OUTER SPACE, Bantam, Q7276, $1.25, 180 pages, 1972, 16 pages of illustrations.**

The second book, with 19 editions in a year and a half. Much quieter in tone than the first book, it covers much of the same ground with different examples. It talks about the mysterious spheres of South America, which I'm still not con-

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vinced are natural phenomena as the *National Geographic* would have us believe. If you're hooked, read this one, too.

**Von Däniken, Erich, THE GOLD OF THE GODS, Harbound, Putnam, 1973, 216 pages, illustrated, 8 pages of color photographs.**
Number three in the series, collect them all. The calmest of the bunch, very well illustrated. The now-disputed visit to the caves and tunnels discovered by Juan Moricz in Equador is first described in this book. (Von Däniken has been accused of making up the whole thing, although there is evidence that the fellow who supposedly discovered the caves is trying to discourage fortune hunters by denying that they exist.) Even if only half the book is true, there are some real mind-bogglers and brain twisters hiding out in these pages.

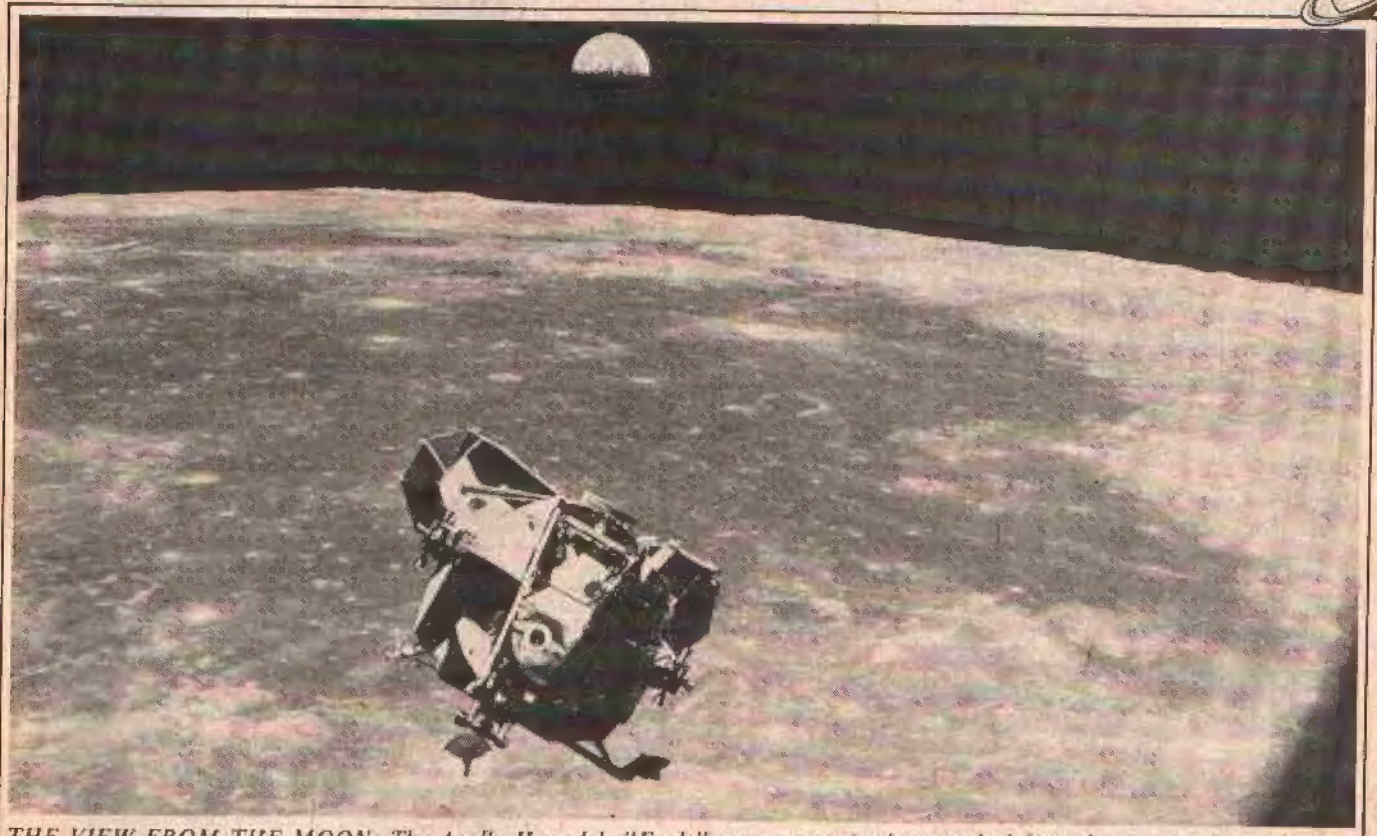
**Velikovsky, Immanual, EARTH IN UPHEAVAL, Dell, Laurel Edition, 2203, 95ff, 288 pages, 1973.**
*Earth in Upheaval* doesn't really fit into the flying saucer genre, but the spirit of the book is revolutionary so I decided to throw it in with the rest of the wash. Velikovsky is regarded by the Geologic Scientific Community as the von Däniken of his field (which isn't a compliment, as far as they're concerned.) Nonetheless, Velikovsky's theories have been borne out in several cases; most notably, he was the only contemporary scientist to my knowledge to correctly predict, for whatever reasons, that the surface temperature of Venus was extremely high.

I mention this particular book because it advances a radical hypothesis for a planetary upheaval of approximately 3500 years ago that could account for the sinking of Atlantis or at least for the Deluge myths. I must point out that Velikovsky even denies Atlantis in the classical sense, so this book must be regarded as a serious scientific effort, not as rationalization for a pet theory of how a super-scientific civilization vanished beneath the waves. Research of this type will, perhaps, lead us to the more truthful interpretations of our ancient history, both geologic and cultural.

**Wilson, Clifford, M.A., B.D., Ph. D., CRASH GO THE CHARIOTS, Lancer Books, 78733-125, $1.25, 1972, 126.**
While I don't agree with the ultimate rationale of this book, I have great respect for its intention and would not for a moment deny the validity of such legitimate refutations of von Däniken's theories as the Easter Island chapter. Dr. Wilson is certainly a much more careful and scientific man than Mr. von Däniken, but he resorts to a mystical basis for his claims that I find as unsatisfying as those speculations that von Däniken spouts as absolute fact. I'd recommend this book as a kind of imperfect antidote to *Chariots of the Gods?*

These two men remind me somehow of two bull elephants who have squared off and are ramming and slamming each other into inefficacy while one of the smart young elephants takes advantage of the situation and takes over the herd.

Von Däniken has taken the irrational position of the true believer in extraterrestrials, while Wilson has the equally irrational viewpoint of the true *religious* believer. I admire both of them for their sincerity, but the real truth, I suspect, lies somewhere in between. As Aldous Huxley said, we dance our lives in a circle, while the *truth* sits in the center laughing at us because we pull each other away from it and can never quite get close enough to touch it.



*THE VIEW FROM THE MOON: The Apollo II module "Eagle" ascent state is photographed from the command module during rendezvous in lunar orbit by astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin. But were they the* first *to see the earth as a "Big Blue Marble" floating in space—or merely the first men from* our *world to do so? (Photo courtesy of United Press International.)*

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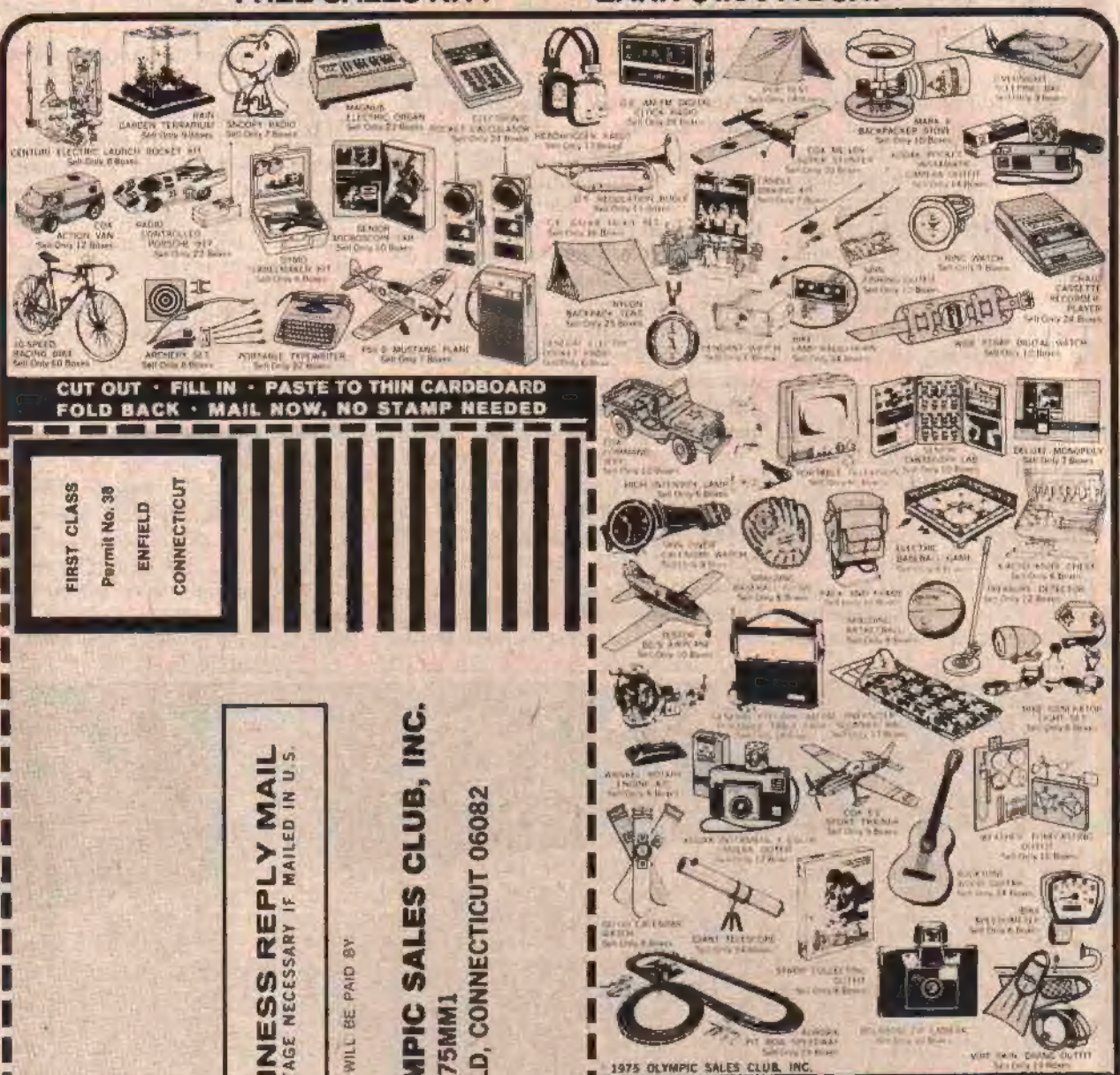

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TO JOIN THE CLUB, fill in and mail the postcard. No postage is required! We'll send you — ABSOLUTELY FREE — the Olympic All-Occasion Sales Kit, Membership Card and FREE PRIZE CATALOG. You pay nothing! You owe nothing! Just show your sales kit to friends, neighbors and relatives — and start taking orders and earning prizes — NOW!

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# I'll guide you **step by step** into your own thriving business

## ● While keeping your present job, would you like to gross $14 or $21 profit per hour?

*a true story by Bob Ferrel*

SOME YEARS AGO I was a printer in a small Michigan town. I drew a pretty fair pay check but it wouldn't stretch far enough to provide the kind of living I wanted for my wife and five children.

Then one day I was reading a magazine just as you now are and I saw an ad. It intrigued me. It offered me the steadily growing income I had always hoped for. It said I would have greater security and personal independence . . . and that's what I had been wanting.

I was a little skeptical, but I said to myself, "for a postage stamp I can find out." So I mailed the coupon. In a few days, I got a letter with a booklet that gave the whole story. It opened my eyes. I could see why owning my own business was so much easier than I had always thought . . . why the day to day guidance of a successful worldwide organization could assure my own success.

I read the booklet several times. It just seemed too good to be true. I talked it over with my wife. We decided that **now** was the time to make the forward step . . . there was no reason to keep postponing an income increase.

So, I applied for a Duraclean dealership and I was accepted. I stayed with my job . . . ran a few ads . . . sent some mailings . . . contacted a few stores and told my friends about the superior services I was now equipped to give them. Evenings and Saturdays, I rendered the service. As the business grew, I added servicemen.

I found that I didn't have to develop a single idea myself. Every step had been prepared for me and pre-tested. Hundreds of other men had already proven my methods successful.

It didn't take long to see that I was making three to four times (yes, 3 to 4 times) as much per hour in my own business as in my printing job. So, after only seven months with a good following of customers, I quit my job to go full time on my own. In the meantime, I had enjoyed all this extra income on top of my salary.

Each day, we realized what a **serious** mistake not mailing that coupon would have been . . . and how that little act that seemed so trivial at the time actually changed our lives.

The steadily growing income brought us many things we could not afford before. My efforts were so much more productive. I scheduled my time to my own liking. When we wanted a day or two off, we took it. I worked hard but, if I wanted to be home early or quit at noon, I did.

This is not a business for a lazy man. But if a man is ambitious and will work to deserve those nice things in life we all want, this business is made to order for such a man.

I became so enthusiastic about this business and so appreciative of what it had brought my family that, whenever a man opened a dealership near me, I helped him get a quick start.

The company learned about this and had each new dealer in my section of Michigan spend a day with me. One day the president of Duraclean Company asked me how I would like to move to Headquarters and spend my entire time helping dealers to increase their sales and profits.

That was good news to my ears. Since then I have worked with hundreds of our dealers in their own towns and at regional meetings, conventions and dealer group meetings. But much of the time I am right here at my desk in touch with our dealers by letter and telephone.

Incidentally I sold my dealership at a good profit. Dealers sell their Duraclean businesses for up to ten times their cost. After 30 months, Leo Lubel sold for $7,116 above his cost. If for any reason a dealer wants to sell, we maintain a service to locate buyers and help him sell.

Our job here at headquarters is to show each individual Duraclean dealer how to use his own abilities to bring him greatest success. I know hundreds of our dealers on a first name basis. We work together as one happy family. If you become a Duraclean dealer, I'll be as close to you as your telephone or mail box.

### It's Easier than You Think To Build Your Own Business

If you've wanted to BE YOUR OWN BOSS... to become financially independent and have a fast growing income, now YOU CAN. And you own a Nationally Advertised business.

You can stay at your present job while your customer list grows . . . then switch to full time, lining up jobs for your servicemen to do. One job a day brings a good starting income.

If you hire two servicemen (full or part time) while you keep your job, the national price guide provides you a gross profit of $14 an hour on their work and this is much easier to do than you think. **We show you how . . .** step by step. That's $490 for a 35 hour week.

Your gross profit on three servicemen is $21 per hour. Duraclean dealers find it easy to gross $7 per hour on EACH serviceman plus $12 an hour on any service they themselves render. The 24 page illustrated booklet we'll mail you (with no obligation) explains how most of your gross profit becomes **clear net profit.** Your income is limited only by the number of servicemen you employ.

You can operate from a shop, office, or your home. Equipment is light and portable.

At the start, you may want to render service yourself . . . or you can start with full or part time servicemen. This business is easy to learn . . . easy to start . . . so easy to service that women dealers do it. We prefer you have no experience . . . not have to "unlearn" old ways.

We are NOW enlarging this worldwide system of individually-owned service businesses. If you are reliable, honest and willing to work to become financially independent, we invite you to mail the coupon.

When you receive our illustrated booklet, you will see the way we show you **step by step** how to quickly get customers . . . and still more customers from their recommendations.

You have 7 superior services that are rendered "on location" in homes, offices, hotels, theaters, clubs, motels and institutions.

These are not ordinary services. You have the prestige and endorsement of leading furniture makers and carpet mills, of Parents' Magazine and McCall's, of Research and Testing Laboratories.

National magazine advertising explains superior merits of **your** services, builds **your** customer confidence and brings job leads to **you.**

We and a Duraclean dealer will train you and assist you. He'll reveal his successful, proven methods. You have pre-tested newspaper and yellow-page ads, commercials, and a full mailing program.

Stores, upholsterers, insurance adjustors, and decorators refer jobs to our dealers. These year 'round services are in constant demand.

### Start Small, Grow Big in this Booming Business

Many men have said to us, "I can't afford to give up my job till I know I have a sure thing . . . a sound business that will provide both security and a better living for my family."

That made sense to us so we worked out such a plan . . . and those same men are now enjoying a Duraclean dealership in many communities. You don't experiment. You use **tested, proven** methods. You have **our backing and "know how."**

Does this appeal to you? Don't decide now. Mail the coupon so you'll have the facts to decide wisely. There is no obligation. You'll then know whether this is what you want.

You can start small and grow big. A third century ago Duraclean was an idea . . . but it caught fire and spread to a world wide service. Why did it spread? (1) **superior processes.** (2) **proven customer-getting methods** (3) **Day to day guidance from Headquarters.**

Our first service, the care of upholstery and carpets not only cleans, it enlivens the fibers . . . revives dull colors. Pile rises with **new life.** There's no harsh machine scrubbing. No soaking. Mild aerated foam lightly applied lifts out dirt, grease, many unsightly spots like magic. Furnishings are used again in a few hours.

**Government figures show service businesses are growing faster than industries and stores . . . $750 million yearly potential just in rug and furniture cleaning. Your 6 other services are explained in the free booklet we'll mail you.**

**Less than $1500 establishes YOUR OWN business. A day's profit more than pays the monthly payments we finance for you.**

Men frequently take in partners.

We furnish electric equipment and, with first shipment, enough materials to **return your TOTAL investment.** If you have good habits and know the importance of customer satisfaction, you can likely qualify for a Duraclean dealership.

TODAY is the time to reserve a Duraclean dealership, **before** someone takes your location.

It's been said, "Opportunity knocks but once at every man's door." This could be that one rare opportunity in **your life.**

It is surprisingly easy to learn this business. You can decide from the information we will send you whether to apply for a dealership. So, with **no obligation whatever,** mail the coupon TODAY. Cut it out NOW so you won't forget to mail it.

**Mail this coupon TODAY**
**It may put you in business**

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5-1Y3 **Duraclean Bldg., Deerfield, Ill. 60015**

**With no obligation,** mail 24 page illustrated booklet telling how and why I can quickly increase my income and family security **while still employed,** how you'll help finance me. No salesman will call.

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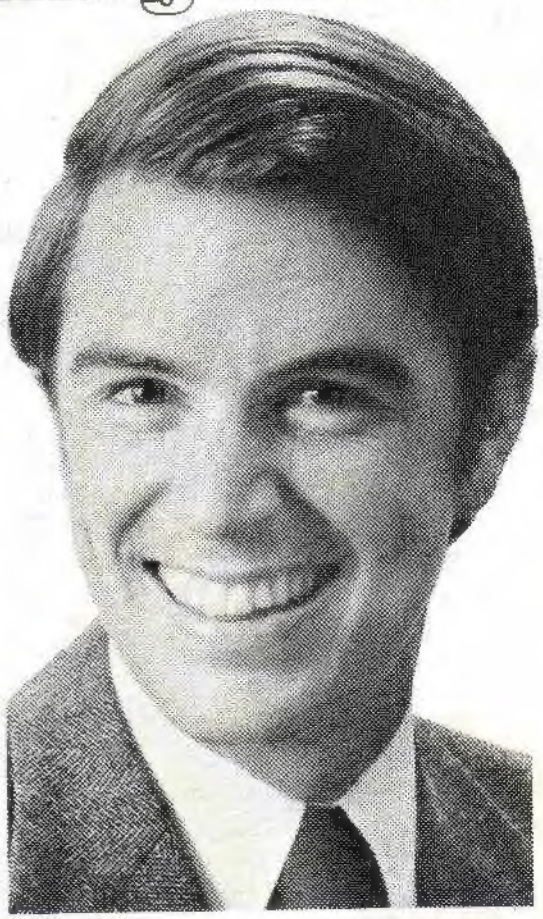

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